

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT UPPER PAYMENT LIMITS

Effective for hospital inpatient and outpatient upper payment limit adjustments made on or after March 12, 2010, the Department of Community Health is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid inpatient and outpatient upper payment limit (UPL) payments. The purpose of these changes is to more closely align Georgia's upper payment limit calculations with the UPL methods used in other states and recommended by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

These changes should be considered technical in nature and will not require additional State funding since the non-federal share of the hospital UPL program is funded through intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) made by public hospitals and eligible hospital authorities. Changes in both the inpatient and outpatient UPL provide more explicit UPL standards that continue the DCH practice of using the higher of either hospital Medicaid expenditures or Medicare payment amounts in order to establish upper payment limits. The proposed inpatient and outpatient hospital UPL method eliminates the need for retrospective reconciliations with CMS of UPL payments against year-by-year changes in upper payment limits to a prospective method that does not require annual reconciliation adjustments. Since CMS would no longer require these UPL reconciliations, the UPL payment process would be considerably streamlined and could be more quickly adapted to subsequent changes in hospital reimbursement policy.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **March 29, 2010**, 2:00 p.m., at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the Fifth Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **March 29, 2010**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4053, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **April 8, 2010** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the **April 8, 2010** Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the Fifth Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2010

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner