

## **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.

### **EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Effective for dates of service on and after April 1, 2005, the Department is proposing to make the following changes to the Medicaid Emergency Ambulance Services (EAS) program as follows:

- Utilize 90% of the CY 2002 Medicare fee schedule for Locality 01 as the basis for reimbursement for Medicaid-covered procedure codes in the EAS program.
- Utilize Medicare definitions in determining reimbursement for Basic (BLS) (A0429) and Advanced (ALS) (A0427) Life Support emergency ambulance services.
- Recognize two additional Medicare procedure codes to pay interim levels of emergency ambulance services in the Medicaid program.
  - Q3019-Emergency Non-ALS service (ALS Vehicle)
  - Q3020-Non-Emergency Non-ALS service (ALS Vehicle)
- Eliminate coverage for the following Medicaid procedure codes:
  - A0420 for wait time
  - A0422 for life sustaining oxygen.
  - A0427-ET and A0429-ET for round trip EAS.

The purpose of these changes is to more accurately match payments to the types of services being provided. These changes are estimated to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$2,800,000 (\$1,100,000 in State funds).

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on the proposed changes should do so before March 10, 2005, to the Board of Community Health, P. O. Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Comments so 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 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on March 10, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with the March meeting of the Board of Community Health. Individuals who are disabled and in need of assistance to participate during the meeting should call (404) 656-4479. The Board will vote on the proposed changes after comments have been received. The March Board meeting will be held in the Carl E. Sanders Fireplace Room of the Capitol Education Center, 180 Central Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2005.**

**Tim Burgess, Commissioner**