

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 CFR § 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.

PHARMACY SERVICES

Effective for dates of service on or after **November 1, 2010** the Department is proposing to change the reimbursement for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids™ Fee-for-service pharmacy claims as follows:

1. Define an Estimated Acquisition Cost (EAC) for select specialty pharmaceuticals as Average Wholesale Price (AWP) minus up to 18% depending on the product dispensed and the Department's ability to ensure access to the medication at that reimbursement level. All other established payment methodologies and rules continue to apply. Products identified by the Department as Specialty Pharmaceuticals and subject to this reimbursement change include but are not limited to the agents used in the treatment of the following conditions:
 - Rheumatoid Arthritis/Crohn's Disease/Psoriasis
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Neutropenia
 - Hepatitis
 - Anemia
 - Growth Hormone Deficiency
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Prevention
 - Pulmonary Hypertension

2. Define an Estimated Acquisition Cost (EAC) for Hemophilia Blood Factor-related products as AWP-24% up to AWP-42% depending on the product dispensed and the Department's ability to ensure access to the medication at that reimbursement level. All other established payment methodologies and rules continue to apply.

No less than quarterly, the Department will review the appropriateness of the reimbursement methodology for Specialty pharmaceuticals and Hemophilia Blood Factor-related products and adjust the reimbursement rate if needed to ensure recipients' access to the medications is maintained. This change in reimbursement is expected to result in an annual savings to the Medicaid program of \$1,444,704 in total funds; \$359,593 in state funds.

Specialty pharmaceuticals subject to the adjusted EAC reimbursement and the Hemophilia/Blood-Factor pricing list will be published quarterly in Part II of the Pharmacy Policy Manual.

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 **September 22, 2010, 2:00 p.m.**, at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, 5th 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 **September 24, 2010**, to the Board of Community Health, P.O. Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday-Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm., 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 **October 14, 2010** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the 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 5th Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2010
Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner