

The background of the cover is a blurred photograph of a medical professional, likely a nurse, wearing a white uniform and a face mask. A large, semi-transparent green cross is centered over the image. Various medical icons are overlaid on the green background, including a syringe, a pill, a virus particle, a stethoscope, and a group of people. A network of thin white lines connects some of these icons, suggesting a flow or relationship. The right side of the cover features a dark grey diagonal band where the title and other text are located.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Hospital Statistical and Reimbursement (HS&R) Report Timeliness Validation

CareSource

Quarter 1: January 2021 – March 2021

June 16, 2021



**MYERS AND
STAUFFER** LC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



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State Fiscal Year 2021

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Project Background

The Medicaid Care Management Organizations Act (the “Act”) requires the Care Management Organizations (CMOs) to provide a Hospital Statistical and Reimbursement (HS&R) report within 30 days upon request of a provider. Specifically, O.C.G.A. 33-21A-11 states:

Upon request by a hospital provider related to a specific fiscal year, a care management organization shall, within 30 days of the request, provide that hospital with an HS&R report for the requested fiscal year. Any care management organization which violates this Code section by not providing the requested report within 30 days shall be subject to a penalty of \$1,000.00 per day, starting on the thirty-first day after the request and continuing until the report is provided. It is the intent of the General Assembly that such penalty be collected by the Department of Community Health and deposited into the Indigent Care Trust Fund created pursuant to Code Section 31-8-152. A care management organization shall not reduce the funding available for health care services for members as a result of payment of such penalties.

Additionally, the CMOs must submit a list of the requested HS&R reports to the Department of Community Health (“the Department” or DCH) no later than 30 days following the calendar quarter period.



Objective

As requested by the Department, Myers and Stauffer LC (Myers and Stauffer) tested the data on the quarterly HS&R reports submitted by the CMOs in response to the “Act” for the quarter beginning January 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2021 (“Quarter 1”). We attempted to confirm the information reported by the CMOs to demonstrate their compliance with the HS&R reporting requirements of the “Act”.

The quarterly HS&R reports submitted to the Department by CareSource contain the following data: the identification of hospitals that requested HS&R reports including location, name of report requestor, date the HS&R report(s) were requested, the date the CMO released the report to the hospital or requestor, and other related information.

HS&R reports were randomly selected for CareSource to contact providers for confirmation of the dates reported by the CMOs. The Methodology section provides an overview of how we analyzed the data on the quarterly reports.



Methodology

In order to perform this analysis, we utilized the quarterly reports submitted to DCH by CareSource. CareSource's report was obtained by accessing their web portal on May 6, 2021. For Quarter 1, 27 HS&R reports were submitted by CareSource and can be found in Exhibit A of this report.

In accordance with the validation process approved by DCH, Myers and Stauffer requests confirmation of the CMO reported request and release dates from providers or their representatives. Using the HS&R reports provided by CareSource, we sampled no less than 15 report requests.

Telephone calls or e-mails regarding 15 HS&R reports were initiated on May 11, 2021 and completed on May 24, 2022. Providers were asked to provide the date they requested the HS&R report and the date the CMO provided notification that the report was available.

A maximum of three attempts per provider were performed in an effort to acquire data for this analysis.

Once the data was collected, we analyzed the results and performed follow-up communication with the CMOs or provider, as necessary. Provider responses were compared with the dates reported on CareSource's quarterly report.



Assumptions and Limitations

The assumptions and limitations summarized below should be noted when reviewing this report.

- Our procedures were not designed to identify instances where CareSource may have failed to include a provider's request for an HS&R report in the report to DCH. However, had instances occurred where a provider stated they requested an HS&R report from CareSource that was not included in the report to DCH, Myers and Stauffer would have communicated with CareSource to confirm the information obtained from the provider.
- Myers and Stauffer accepted a verbal or an email confirmation for information received from providers.
- If there was a disagreement between CareSource and provider, Myers and Stauffer accepted the documentation submitted by CareSource as confirmation.
- If instances occurred where a provider stated they received a requested HS&R report from CareSource after 20 days and that report was originally excluded from our confirmation process, we would have communicated with CareSource to confirm the information obtained from the provider.
- As instructed by the Department, if the due date of the report, 30 days after the report was requested, fell on a Saturday or Sunday, the next business day was assumed to be the due date for purposes of this analysis.



Report Results

This section provides the results of the analysis of the Quarter 1, 2021 HS&R report.

Table I. Report Analysis

CMO	Reports - Requested	Reports - Released Greater Than 30 Days	Sample Reports	Reports - Confirmed	Reports - Disagreed	Unable to Reach
CareSource	27	0	15	14 (93.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (6.7%)

For the Quarter 1 analysis, 15 out of the 27 HS&R reports were sampled. The results indicate information reported by CareSource was confirmed for 93.3 percent (14 out of 15) of the HS&R reports. Providers were deemed unreachable after three contact attempts were made represents 6.7 percent (1 of 15) in the sample.

Table II. Length of Time between Request and Release Dates for HS&R Reports, as reported per CMO

CMO	Days Between Request and Release Dates		
	Minimum	Average	Maximum
CareSource	0.0	4.0	10.0

The statistics included in Table II are based on the request and release dates reported by CareSource for Quarter 1. The minimum number of days taken to release an HS&R report to a provider was zero days while the maximum number of days taken to release an H&R report to a provider was ten days.



Findings

CareSource

For Quarter 1, fourteen representatives were contacted regarding 15 HS&R report requests. The request and release dates reported by CareSource were confirmed for 14 requests. Myers and Stauffer did not identify any HS&R reports released by CareSource to a provider that were greater than 30 days. We did not identify any HS&R reports released by CareSource that were greater than 20 days. We were unable to confirm one report request as one provider was deemed unreachable after contact was initiated three times.

Based on our findings, CareSource did not have any case of late reporting for the quarter beginning January 1, 2021 ending March 31, 2021.



Exhibit A

Hospital Statistical and Reimbursement Report Quarterly Report

CMO Name: CareSource

Reporting Date: 4/1/2021

Reporting Period: 1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

Hospital Name:	Location	Date Report Requested	Date Report Released	Requester's Name
Tift Regional Medical Center	Tifton	1/8/2021	1/8/2021	Elisabeth Pak, EPak@draffin-tucker.com
Colquitt Regional Medical Center (SUMMARY Service dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2020)	Moultrie	1/13/2021	1/19/2021	Joe Pierce, JPierce@draffin-tucker.com
Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Barrow)	Winder	1/14/2021	1/19/2021	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Braselton)	Braselton	1/14/2021	1/19/2021	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	Athens	1/14/2021	1/19/2021	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Lumpkin)	Lumpkin	1/14/2021	1/19/2021*	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Dodge County Hospital	Eastman	1/12/2021	1/22/2021	Joan Hartley, jhartley@dodgecountyhospital.com
Hamilton Medical Center	Dalton	1/20/2021	1/22/2021	Holly A. Bizic, hbizic@pyapc.com
Emory Johns Creek Hospital	Johns Creek	1/22/2021	1/22/2021	Arecia Combs, ACombs@draffin-tucker.com
Jefferson Hospital	Louisville	1/28/2021	2/5/2021	Sebrina Manning, smanning@jeffersonhosp.com
SGMC Smith Northview	Valdosta	2/15/2021	2/17/20201	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
South Georgia Medical Center	Valdosta	2/15/2021	2/17/20201	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
SGMC Berrien	Nashville	2/15/2021	2/17/20201	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Colquitt Regional Medical Center (DETAILED Service dates: 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2020)	Moultrie	2/22/2021	2/24/2021	Shae Foy, sfoy@draffin-tucker.com
Liberty Regional Medical Center (Hospital Authority of Liberty County)	Hinesville	2/25/2021	3/2/2021	Heather Dyer, heather.dyer@libertyregional.org
Upton Regional Medical Center	Thomaston	2/26/2021	3/2/2021	April Williams, april.williams@urmc.org
Evans Memorial Hospital	Claxton	3/5/2021	3/12/2021	Joe Pierce, JPierce@draffin-tucker.com
Hospital Authority of Candler County (DBA Candler County Hospital)	Metter	3/9/2021	3/12/2021	Jesus Ruiz, jesus.ruiz@rsgga.com
Southeast Georgia Health System - Camden Campus	St. Marys	3/12/2021	3/16/2021	Michelle Morris, mmorris@sghs.org
Southeast Georgia Health System - Brunswick Campus	Brunswick	3/12/2021	3/16/2021	Michelle Morris, mmorris@sghs.org
Stephens County Hospital	Toccoa	3/16/2021	3/23/2021	Jesus Ruiz, jesus.ruiz@rsgga.com

Exhibit A

LifeBrite Hospital Group of Early, LLC (FYE 2020)	Blakely	3/25/2021	3/30/2021	Ginger Cushing, GCushing@lifebriteearly.com
LifeBrite Hospital Group of Early, LLC (Q4 2020)	Blakely	3/25/2021	3/30/2021	Ginger Cushing, GCushing@lifebriteearly.com
Meriwether Healthcare, LLC	Warm Springs	3/26/2021	3/30/2021	Shannon Dukes, shannon.dukes@warmspringsmc.org
Dorminy Medical Center	Fitzgerald	3/30/2021	4/2/2021	Sean Johnson, SJohnson@draffin-tucker.com
Houston Medical Center	Kathleen	3/31/2021	4/2/2021	Amy G. Grube, agrube@HHC.org
Perry Hosital	Perry	3/31/2021	4/2/2021	Amy G. Grube, agrube@HHC.org
*No Medicaid or PCK claims for the service and paid dates requested.				
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