

FACT SHEET

DCH Issues New Unpaid Funds Policy Effective July 1, 2014

Beginning July 1, 2014, the Georgia Department of Community Health initiates its Provider Termination Policy for unpaid funds owed to DCH in the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® programs.

Under this policy, providers who owe DCH amounts in excess of what can be collected from provider claims payments will be required to make an immediate payment of the excess funds owed. Providers who fail to make this payment within 15 days of their written notice of payment due will be suspended.

Additionally, once suspended, providers who fail to make the required payment within 30 days of the suspended dates are subject to termination by the department.

Any provider who is terminated may apply for reenrollment into the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs once the total amount of funds owed to DCH has been paid.

Here is the full text of the termination policy:

404.1 Termination for Unpaid Funds Owed the Division

A) The Division may terminate a Provider's participation in the Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids programs for unpaid funds owed the Division when the unpaid balance of funds equals or exceeds the amount that the Division can collect through twelve (12) months of voluntary or automatic reductions to the Provider's reimbursement under Section 406. The unpaid balance of funds owed the Division shall be determined to equal or exceed twelve (12) months of reductions to the Provider's reimbursement when the unpaid balance plus any applicable fees equals or exceeds fifty-two (52) times the Provider's average weekly claims. A Provider's average weekly claims shall be calculated utilizing the sum of the Provider's claims over the most recent twenty-six (26) weeks divided by twenty-six (26).

Prior to the termination of the Provider, the Division shall provide written notice to the Provider and give the Provider the opportunity to pay the excess balance owed. The excess balance owed is the unpaid balance plus any applicable fees minus twelve (12) months of reductions to the Provider's claims. The Division shall send the notice to the Provider via registered mail, return receipt required. The Provider shall have fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the notice to pay the excess balance owed.

If the Division does not receive payment for the excess balance owed by the end of the fifteen (15) day notice period, the Provider shall be placed on Suspended Status pursuant to Section 404.2 for thirty (30) days. A notice of Suspended Status shall be sent to the Provider via registered mail, return receipt required. The Provider may return to Active Status if the Provider pays the excess balance owed within the thirty (30) day Suspended Status period.

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(30) day Suspended Status period, the Division shall initiate termination proceedings against the Provider without further notice. Subsequent to the initiation of termination proceedings, but prior to the effective date of the termination, the Provider may return to Active Status by paying the entire balance of unpaid funds owed the Division, including all unpaid funds incorporated into repayment plans, any new debts owed the Division arising during the period since the first Notice letter was received by the Provider, and all other applicable fees. Following the termination of the Provider, reenrollment into the Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Programs shall be governed by the terms and conditions as solely determined by the Division, but shall include repayment of all funds owed to the Division.

B) Any person or entity that replaces a Provider per Section 105.9 shall be deemed to have accepted liability for any unpaid funds and applicable fees owed to the Division, regardless of the successor's enrollment status or lack of affiliation with its predecessor at the time the debt was incurred. As such, the Division may terminate a successor Provider's participation in the Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids programs for the unpaid funds owed the Division as described in this Section.

C) All appeals of terminations under this Section shall be governed by Chapter 500 in the Part 1 Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/Peachcare For Kids Manual.