

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 SERVICES

Act 4 of the 2017 Georgia General Assembly, known as the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act, continues the hospital provider fee program authorized under O.C.G.A. Title 31-8-179, which is scheduled to expire June 30, 2017. Therefore, pending CMS approval, effective for inpatient and outpatient hospital services provided between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2020, and subject to payment at fee-for-service rates, the Department is proposing to continue the current increased hospital inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates. The increased reimbursement is necessary in order to recognize additional costs associated with the provider fees imposed by the Act. As required in the original program, Critical Access Hospitals, Public State Owned Hospitals, and Psychiatric Hospitals are exempt from the provisions of the Act.

The continuation of this Program is estimated to increase annual expenditures as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Aged, Blind, and Disabled	\$32,706,037	\$10,351,461
Low Income Medicaid	278,187,850	88,046,454
All Programs	\$310,893,887	\$98,397,915

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **March 16, 2017** 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. 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 23, 2017**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **April 13, 2017** 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 MARCH, 2017

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner