

## 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.

### INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR EMERGENCY AIR AMBULANCE STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA)

Pursuant to House Bill 68 passed in the 2025 legislative session, the Department of Community Health seeks to submit a Medicaid SPA to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for approval effective July 1, 2025. The purpose of the SPA is to increase the reimbursement rate calculation for Emergency Air Ambulance services in the Medicaid State Plan.

In the existing Medicaid State Plan, the reimbursement rate for rotary wing is determined by comparing the following predetermined rates and choosing the lesser of the following amounts:

1. Provider's submitted charges, or
2. Loaded miles x \$16 = sum + \$2,573, or
3. \$3,300 fixed rate.

DCH seeks to modify the Medicaid State Plan to make the reimbursement rate for rotary wing to be determined by comparing the following predetermined rates and choosing the lesser of the following amounts:

1. Provider's submitted charges, or
2. Loaded miles x \$21 = sum + \$2,573, or
3. \$3,300 fixed rate.

Loaded miles are defined as the mileage incurred from the pickup of an eligible member to the member's arrival at the destination. Unloaded trips and mileage are not reimbursable.

The cost impact is as follows:

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2026	\$249,004	\$513,462	\$762,466

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 **May 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533318812?pwd=4dXmzqVddy9FMlmQjEbDTwKLMJqcJA.1>

Meeting ID: 845 3331 8812

Passcode: 373267

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- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
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- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **June 3, 2025**, to Danisha Williams c/o 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](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov) or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to [openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov](mailto:openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov). *Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.*

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **June 12, 2025**, at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May 2025**

**Russel Carlson, Commissioner**