

## 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 Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities**

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to increase supplemental quality incentive payments to eligible skilled nursing facilities effective August 13, 2021. Incentive payments will be paid to skilled nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in the quality of care rendered to its Medicaid beneficiaries.

This change is estimated to increase funding for eligible nursing facilities as follows:

	<b>State Cost</b>	<b>Federal Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
SFY 2022	\$12,000,000	\$24,253,776	\$36,253,776

The SFY 2022 Appropriation Bill (HB81) includes funding for the Department to increase supplemental quality incentive payments to eligible nursing facilities. The Department collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to develop the following quality incentive plan:

Utilizing calendar year 2020 data as the baseline, nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in the four categories identified below will be eligible for a supplemental payment. Nursing facilities must demonstrate improvement in at least one or more of the areas noted below in order to receive the supplemental payment. The supplemental payment will be based on the percentage of improvement ranked by decile for each of the four categories listed below.

- High-Risk Long Stay Residents with pressure ulcers
- Long-stay residents who received an antianxiety or hypnotic medication
- Long-stay residents who received an antipsychotic medication
- Long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection

Supplemental payments will be distributed to eligible nursing facilities twice per year. However, in year one (SFY2022), eligible nursing facilities will only receive one payment.

For each subsequent year after calendar year 2020, the base year will be adjusted annually to reflect improvement against the prior year. For example, CY2021 would be paid out against improvement against CY2020, CY2022 would be paid out against CY2021, and CY2023 against improvement in CY2022. Only those facilities who demonstrate improvement will be eligible for the add on payment.

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 **August 19, 2021 at 10:30 a.m., via WebEx 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 prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Event number: 182 868 8192

Event password: OPEN (6736 from phones)

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To join the online event  
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1. Copy and paste the following link to a browser:

<https://dchevents.webex.com/dchevents/j.php?MTID=m2d62aae07f5c80c86bfb71edfa8b277b>

2. Click "Join Now".

Join the audio conference only: 1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada). Access code: 182 868 8192.

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **August 26, 2021**, 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](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 Danisha Williams, [danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov). Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **September 9, 2021 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.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2021**  
**Caylee Noggle, Commissioner**