

## 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.

### PHYSICIAN UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT (UPL)

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) approval and effective for services provided on or after October 1, 2021, the Department proposes to remove the provision which prohibits a physician from receiving supplemental payments through the Fee-for-Service Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) program and the enhanced primary care reimbursement rates simultaneously.

This change is estimated to increase supplemental payments by:

|         | State Cost   | Federal Cost | Total Cost   |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| SFY2022 | \$21,374,572 | \$43,593,733 | \$64,968,305 |

Per the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), physicians with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, pediatric medicine, general internal medicine, or an associated subspecialty, who attested per the Department's policy, received enhanced reimbursement rates for certain Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. This enhanced reimbursement provided under the Affordable Care Act ended in December 2014.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the Department, through a state plan amendment, carried the enhanced primary care rate increases forward and continued to reimburse eligible physicians at the higher rates. Per the provisions of the state plan amendment, primary care physicians who received supplemental payments through the Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Program *were prohibited* from receiving the enhanced primary care provider rate increases.

Accordingly, the Department is seeking approval to remove the provision which *prohibits* a physician from receiving supplemental payments through the Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) program and the enhanced primary care reimbursement rates simultaneously. Removal of this provision will allow eligible physicians to participate in and receive both the UPL supplemental payment and the enhanced primary care rate increase beginning October 1, 2021.

### Eligible Teaching Hospitals

| Hospital Teaching Program            | Medicaid Number | Teaching Hospital                 | Hospital Authority             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Augusta University Medical Center | 000000723A      | Augusta University Medical Center | State of Ga (Board of Regents) |

|  |            |                                    |   |
|--|------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Colquitt Regional Medical Center          | 000002021A | Colquitt Regional Medical Center   | Hospital Authority of Colquitt County       |
| 3. Emory University Hospital                 | 000000712A | DeKalb Medical Center              | DeKalb County Hospital Authority            |
| 4. Emory University Hospital - Midtown       | 000000503A | DeKalb Medical Center              | DeKalb County Hospital Authority            |
| 5. Floyd Medical Center                      | 000000756A | Floyd Medical Center               | Floyd County Hospital Authority             |
| 6. Grady Memorial Hospital                   | 000000855A | Grady Memorial Hospital            | The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority        |
| 7. The Medical Center, Navicent Health       | 000001207A | Medical Center, Navicent Health    | Macon-Bill County Hospital Authority        |
| 8. Memorial Health University Medical Center | 000001273A | University Hospital                | Richmond County Hospital Authority          |
| 9. Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital           | 000001482A | Phoebe Putney Health System        | Albany-Dougherty County Hospital Authority  |
| 10. Piedmont Columbus Midtown                | 000001196A | Piedmont Columbus Regional-Midtown | The Medical Center Hospital Authority, Inc. |
| 11. Piedmont Columbus Northside              | 000315642A | Piedmont Columbus Northside        | The Medical Center Hospital Authority, Inc. |
| 12. Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center  | 000000074A | Piedmont Athens                    | Hospital Authority of Clarke County         |
| 13. Wellstar Kennestone Hospital             | 000001119A | Wellstar Kennestone Hospital       | Cobb County Kennestone                      |
| 14. DeKalb Medical Center                    | 000000536A | DeKalb Medical Center              | DeKalb County Hospital Authority            |
| 15. Gwinnett Medical Center                  | 000000294A | Gwinnett Medical Center            | Hospital Authority of Gwinnett Country      |
| 16. Houston Medical Center                   | 000000976A | Houston Medical Center             | Hospital Authority of Houston County, GA    |
| 17. Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital      | 000679808A | Grady Memorial Hospital            | The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority        |

|   |            |                                 |   |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 18. Southeast Georgia Health System- Brunswick Campus | 000000822A | Southeast Georgia Health System | Glynn-Brunswick Memorial Hospital Authority |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|---|

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 **August 18, 2021 at 10 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: 182 044 3705  
 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=m4b5ed6295883832b44d0eaebd15754f0>

2. Click "Join Now".

Join the audio conference only: 1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada). Access code: 182 044 3705.

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **August 25, 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**