

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.

Department of Education Direct Nursing Services Administrative Agreement

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health proposes to reimburse Department of Education Local Education Authorities, through the Department of Education, effective July 1, 2017.

Georgia's Medicaid School Based Claiming Program as proposed would consist of a Direct Service Claiming (DSC) Medicaid reimbursement program component. This school-based program assists participating school districts, referred to as Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools, by reimbursing them for Medicaid-covered direct services provided to Medicaid students.

The purpose of the Program is to allow LEAs to receive reimbursement for Medicaid-covered direct medical services provided by school nurses to Title XIX and XXI eligible students. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the federal agency that oversees the Georgia Medicaid program and use of Medicaid funding.

Georgia school nurses are funded with state dollars through the Quality Basic Education Act, which specifies a distribution funding mechanism to the Local Education Authorities (LEAs, or schools). This method of distribution is performed using the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula. These state dollars can be matched with Medicaid funding by determining the penetration rate of Medicaid and Peachcare members for each school, and drawing down the federal match for services (75% for the provision of direct medical services) to pass through to the schools for the direct provision of nursing services to Medicaid and Peachcare members.

For Medicaid to cover school-based services, the services must be primarily medical and not educational in nature. The services must be provided by a qualified provider to children in families that meet Medicaid income eligibility requirements. They must be considered medically necessary for the child. The services can include:

- Providing health/mental health services contained in an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Medical/health assessment and evaluation as part of the development of an IEP.
- Conducting medical/health assessments/evaluations and diagnostic testing and preparing related reports.
- Providing personal aide services.
- Administering first aid, or prescribed injection or medication to a student.
- Providing direct clinical/treatment services.
- Performing developmental assessments.
- Providing counseling services to treat health, mental health, or substance abuse conditions.
- Developing a treatment plan (medical plan of care) for a student if provided as a medical service.
- Performing routine or mandated child health screens including but not limited to vision, hearing, dental, scoliosis, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) screens.
- Providing immunizations.

- Activities that are services, or components of services, listed in the state's Medicaid plan.

The Department estimates that the total increased cost of the proposal would be \$48,614,604.66 (\$48,614,604.66 Federal Funds, \$0 State Funds).

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 **June 15, 2017** at 12:00 p.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 **June 22, 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 **July 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 8th DAY OF JUNE, 2017
Frank W. Berry, Commissioner