

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.

STRENGTHENING THE REINVESTMENT OF A NECESSARY-WORKFORCE IN GEORGIA (STRONG)

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to implement a new hospital state directed payment program – Strengthening The Reinvestment Of a Necessary-workforce in Georgia (STRONG) – to focus on stabilization, development, and diversification of the healthcare workforce, leading to improved health outcomes for Medicaid members. Eligible hospitals are defined as teaching hospitals with at least five resident full-time equivalents (FTEs) based on schedule E part A, lines 10,11, and 16 in 2019 Medicare cost reports, excluding teaching hospitals participating in Georgia Advancing Innovation to Deliver Equity (GA AIDE).

Under the program, eligible participating hospitals through the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) will receive increased Medicaid funding via semi-annual (2X year) state directed payments: one interim payment and one final reconciliation.

This change is estimated to increase provider funding of critical services for the Medicaid population and strengthen Georgia’s healthcare workforce.

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2023	\$252,075,070*	\$494,316,432	\$746,391,501

*Funded via intergovernmental transfer and provider payments

The STRONG payments represent a 200% increase to hospital base Medicaid reimbursement, which is less than the difference between 100% percent of commercial reimbursement and Medicaid base payments. Given the facilities participating in this program also participate in the GA Hospital Directed Payment Program (HDPP), the final increase under this preprint will be 149.29% for Inpatient claims and 185.87% for Outpatient claims, since the HDPP pays 51% and 14% increases for Inpatient and Outpatient claims.

The state directed payment will be made to the CMOs and the CMOs will be required to transfer the payment to the eligible participating providers. The CMO reimbursement plus STRONG payments will not exceed 100% of Commercial in aggregate.

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 8, 2022 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 prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

June 8, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85995406365?pwd=L3hucHhaWUZEbGszakZvZUlwYnR5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 859 9540 6365

Passcode: Open

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,85995406365# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 859 9540 6365

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **June 15, 2022**, 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 **June 27, 2022** 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 2nd DAY OF JUNE 2022
Caylee Noggle, Commissioner