

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.

PPACA MEDICAID PRIMARY CARE AND VACCINE ADMINISTRATION RATE INCREASE

In compliance with Section 1202 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and effective for dates of services on and after January 1, 2013 an increase is proposed for certain primary care and vaccine administration payments made to designated providers to 100% of the Medicare physician fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

The estimated cost of the increase is \$75,062,644 in FY 2013 and \$150,125,287 in FY 2014. The increase is paid for with 100% federal funds, there is no state general funds cost. In addition, the rate increase is applicable to Medicaid only. It does not apply to the PeachCare for Kids Program. The increase applies to eligible providers billing Georgia Medicaid directly through fee for service and to providers enrolled in the Georgia Families Care Management Organization (CMO) network.

Eligible primary care providers are physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine and/or pediatric medicine, or an associated subspecialty. Physician Extenders, such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurse midwives are also eligible for the increased payment as long as they practice under the supervision of an eligible physician with professional responsibility for the care provided.

The services eligible for the payment increase are billed under the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Evaluation and Management codes 99201 through 99499 and also apply to the administration of vaccines under the Vaccines for Children program. The Department is not required to pay for codes that are not reimbursable under the current Medicaid program. In addition, eligible services performed at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Public Health Departments and nursing homes are not eligible for the higher payment.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **December 20, 2012**, at **1:00 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 **December 27, 2012**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **January 10, 2012** 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 13th DAY DECEMBER, 2012

David A. Cook, Commissioner