

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.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Act 1 of the 2013 Georgia General Assembly, known as the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act, continues the hospital provider fee program authorized under O.C.G.A. Title 31-8-179 Article 6A which is scheduled to expire June 30, 2013. Therefore, effective for inpatient and outpatient hospital services provided between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2017 and subject to payment at fee-for-service rates, the Department is proposing to continue increased hospital inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates. The increased reimbursement is necessary in order to recognize additional costs associated with the provider fees imposed by the Act. The increased rate applies to inpatient and outpatient hospital services in both the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs. As required in the original program, Critical Access Hospitals, Public State Owned Hospitals and Psychiatric Hospitals are exempt from the provisions of the Act.

Medicaid Care Management Organizations are also required to increase payments to providers for services provided between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2017 in order to recognize the additional costs associated with the provider fees imposed by the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act in the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs.

This change is estimated to increase annual expenditures as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Aged, Blind, and Disabled	\$26,178,301	\$8,976,539
Low Income Medicaid	213,824,817	73,320,530
<u>PeachCare for Kids</u>	<u>1,671,323</u>	<u>400,950</u>
All Programs	\$241,674,441	\$82,698,020

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 April 4, 2013, 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 April 11, 2013, 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 May 9, 2013 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 15th DAY OF MARCH, 2013

David A. Cook, Commissioner