

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.

OUTPATIENT PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM (OPPS)

Pending CMS approval and effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2013, the Department is proposing to replace the current outpatient reimbursement system with a prospective payment system based on ambulatory payment classifications (APCs).

This change is estimated to decrease hospital outpatient expenditures in SFY2013 and SFY 2014 as follows:

Program	Fiscal Year	Total Funds	State Funds
Medicaid	FY13	\$0	\$0
Medicaid	FY14	\$100,495,284	\$34,329,189

This new system classifies hospital outpatient services that are clinically similar with comparable resource utilization; although, some services, such as Laboratory, may be excluded. APCs share the conceptual framework and strengths of “base rate and relative weights” used within inpatient Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) systems, but are different in that they define the payment categories based on performed services, not diagnoses.

The data inputs to APCs are based on the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. Relative weights for each APC are based on estimates of the relative costs associated with providing the services assigned to an APC. Corresponding base rates will be determined based upon Medicaid budgetary requirements. Supplemental payments may be used in conjunction with the OPPS to help maintain historical payment levels.

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 **October 26, 2012**, at **11 a.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 **October 26, 2012**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

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 **November 8, 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 11th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2012

David A. Cook,
Commissioner