

## **SYNOPSIS**

### ***Rule 111-5-1-.04***

#### ***Volunteers***

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND MAIN FEATURES OF PROPOSED RULE**

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to amend existing rules to redirect patient responsibilities from volunteers back to the patient.

### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXISTING AND PROPOSED RULES**

Rule 111-5-1-.04 (1)(a) is amended by deleting selected language and adding new wording.

#### **111-5-1-.04 Volunteers.**

(1) Health Care Providers shall recruit Volunteers to perform certain responsibilities to assist in providing Health Care to Patients. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(a) ~~Performing~~ Assisting patients with financial eligibility determinations as required and patient referrals if deemed by the Department ~~to be a delegated responsibility to the Health Care Provider~~; and

(b) Providing other clerical, computer, and administrative support as required. With regard to performing financial eligibility determinations and patient referrals, only those Volunteers specifically authorized and deemed appropriate by the Department shall perform such duties.

(2) Prior to a Health Care Provider's recruitment of a Volunteer, the Volunteer must participate in a screening and orientation process as specified by the Department. Additionally, the Volunteer and Department must execute a written agreement with provisions that address the following:

(a) Scope of work of the Volunteers;

(b) Responsibilities regarding documentation of donated hours contributed to Program activities;

(c) Acknowledgment and agreement to adhere to HIPAA and applicable federal and state confidentiality laws; and

(d) A statement that the Volunteer is considered a state employee or officer for purposes of sovereign immunity so long as he or she has acted within the scope of services defined in the agreement.

(3) The Department is authorized to utilize Volunteers to perform certain duties as the Department deems necessary so long as the Department executes a written agreement as described in Paragraph (2) of this Rule.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§ 31-8-192, 31-8-195, 50-21-22, 50-21-25.