

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.

DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL (DSH) ALLOCATIONS FOR PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Effective for DSH payment adjustments made on or after December 10, 2009, the Department of Community Health is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments. The purpose of these changes is to more accurately match payments to the level of funding that is made available in the annual Appropriations Act and to move to a greater recognition of disproportionality. An amount of \$8,603,287 in State funds will be required as match for the private deemed hospitals. The change in DSH allocation methods is estimated to be budget neutral inasmuch as the non-federal share is funded through intergovernmental transfers (IGTs).

To restore funding to the pool of private non-deemed hospitals:

For private hospitals that meet federal DSH eligibility criteria but that are not considered “deemed” (as determined by Social Security Act Section 1923(b) criteria), payments will be made commensurate with available state matching funds made specifically available via the annual Appropriations Act, but in an amount not to exceed 100% of the calculated allocation amounts as determined by steps 1 through 7 of Section (III)(B) of the current DSH state plan (TN No. 07-016).

To increase recognition of disproportionality in DSH funding:

Decrease the relative weighting for prior year DSH payments from 75% to 50% for small rural hospitals and from 50% to 25% for non-small rural hospitals; and,

Increase the current limitation threshold on newly eligible hospitals from 10% to 25%.

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 29, 2009**, 1:00 p.m., at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the Fifth 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 29, 2009**, 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 4053, 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 14, 2010** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the **January 14, 2010** 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 Fifth Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 10th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2009

Rhonda M. Meadows, M.D., Commissioner