



Date: _____

**REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICARE CERTIFICATION AS A COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER (CMHC) PROVIDING PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES.**

This is in response to your request for information referenced above.

To be certified for Medicare participation as a CMHC, an entity must be providing the services described in § 1913(c)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), and must meet licensing or certification requirements for CMHCs in the state in which it is located. Please note that the State of Georgia does not license or certify CMHCs. The services described in § 1913(c)(1) of the PHSA are:

- Outpatient services, including specialized outpatient services for children, the elderly, the chronically mentally ill, and residents of the CMHC's service area who have been discharged from inpatient treatment at a mental health facility;
- 24-hour per day emergency care services;
- Day treatment or other partial hospitalization services or psychosocial rehabilitation services, and
- Screening for patients being considered for admission to State mental health facilities to determine the appropriateness of such admission.

Although an entity must be providing the comprehensive array of services described in § 1913 (c) (1) of the PHSA to be certified as a CMHC, it will only receive Medicare reimbursement for services provided under a partial hospitalization program. A partial hospitalization program is a distinct and organized ambulatory treatment service offering less than 24-hour daily care. Other requirements for reimbursement of partial hospitalization services may be found in § 1861 of the Social Security Act and in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations at 42 CFR, Part 410.

In accordance with 42 CFR 489.13(a)(2)(i), the effective date of Medicare participation for CMHC is the date on which CMS accepts the CMHC's signed agreement (provider agreement) which assures that all Federal requirements are met. CMS will not accept a CMHC's provider agreement until it has determined that the facility meets all applicable Federal requirements. These requirements may include, but are not limited to, an onsite visit to the CMHC and/or a review of documentation requested by CMS.