



Initial DCH Website Posting on the PCP Rate Increase

PPACA Medicaid Primary Care and Vaccine Administration Rate Increase

The information detailed below provides a general overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) required Medicaid rate increase for certain primary care practitioners. DCH will post additional detail and timelines specific to the Georgia Medicaid process for implementing the increase over the next several weeks. Please check back to the DCH website or the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) Web Portal for updates related to the PCP rate increase (<https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/default.aspx>). Please note that DCH is in the process of developing fee schedules for Georgia Medicaid codes subject to the rate increase. However, the final rates are pending further federal guidance and will not be available until late January 2013.

Background

Section 1202 of the PPACA requires state Medicaid agencies to increase certain primary care and vaccine administration rates for designated providers to 100% of the Medicare physician fee schedule in effect for January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. This increase applies to both providers billing Georgia Medicaid directly through fee for service and to providers enrolled with the state's three care management organizations (CMOs) that provide services through the Georgia Families Program. Note – this rate increase is applicable to Medicaid only. It does not apply to the PeachCare for Kids Program.

Final Federal Rule for the Primary Care Rate Increase

Timing

Final federal rules for implementing the primary care rate increase were published in November 2012 just two months prior to the January 2013 effective date. As a result, the rules allow States additional time to implement the increase. States have until March 31, 2013 to submit their approach in what is known as a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); however, the effective date of the increase will be retroactive to January 1, 2013. Once CMS approves the SPA, then DCH and the CMOs will begin reimbursing eligible providers at the increased rates. As a result, the actual availability of the primary care increase will be delayed until late Spring 2013.

Eligible Providers

The final federal rule specifies eligible primary care providers as board certified physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine and/or pediatric medicine, or an associated subspecialty. Providers with an eligible specialty or subspecialty- but not board certified - are eligible if 60% of codes billed by the provider for CY 2012 are E&M codes and/or vaccine administration codes. Providers will self attest in order to receive the increase. Physician Extenders, such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurse midwives are also eligible for increased payment for designated services as long as they practice under the supervision of an eligible physician with professional responsibility for the care provided. DCH is currently developing the Georgia specific process for identifying eligible providers and will post this information as soon as possible. For further general information on the requirements for eligible providers please refer to the PPACA Final Federal Rule at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-06/pdf/2012-26507.pdf>.

Eligible Services and Codes

The services eligible for the primary care rate increase are billed under the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Evaluation and Management codes 99201 through 99499 and also apply to vaccine

administration codes. States are not required to pay for codes that are not reimbursable under their current Medicaid program. In addition, eligible services performed at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Public Health Departments and Nursing Homes are not eligible for the higher payment.

For a listing of eligible codes under the Georgia Medicaid Program please refer to the Physician Services Provider Manual and the Health Check Services Manual. These manuals, along with other applicable manuals, are available on the GAMMIS Web Portal at: <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/default.aspx>.

Payment Process

Eligible providers billing DCH directly through fee for service will receive the rate increase through the claims payment process and not a supplemental payment. However, the rate increase for the first few months of CY 2013 will be reimbursed on a retroactive basis once CMS approves the Georgia State Plan Amendment (SPA) for implementing the increase. SPA approval and the retroactive reimbursement are expected to occur during the Spring of 2013. In addition, DCH is currently working with the CMOs to identify the most efficient and least burdensome reimbursement process for providers participating in the CMOs' networks. Please note that the CMOs will not reimburse the rate increase until directed to do so by DCH which again will be contingent upon the timing of CMS SPA approval.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the primary care rate increase can be sent to: gapcplus@dch.ga.gov.