

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.

New Options Waiver (NOW) Rate Increase and New Services

Effective with an approved amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the New Option Waiver Program and subject to payment at fee-for-service rates, the Department, in response to a joint federal and state initiative to increase access to care, is proposing an increase in rates of select services. The Department is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid reimbursement for specific services provided through the NOW Waiver Program:

1. Increase the current rates of the following services by 2%:
 - a. Community Access Services (both Group and Individual)
 - b. Prevocational Services
 - c. Supported Employment Services (both Group and Individual)
 - d. Community Living Supports (both the 15-minute unit and the daily rates)
 - e. Support Coordination
2. Establish rates for two new services:
 - a. Behavioral Supports Services which will provide additional support for individuals with challenging behaviors through onsite intervention and training for paraprofessional staff and family members. The proposed rate is \$18.75/unit following rates for similar services in other programs.
 - b. Intensive Support Coordination which will be used to provide oversight and intensive monitoring of individuals transitioning from institutions and those with complex medical and/or behavioral needs. Clinical teams with expertise in specific risk areas will provide this service under a proposed rate of \$461.00 per month.
3. Remove Skilled Nursing Services from its current rate methodology linked to the provision of home-based community living supports services. Skilled Nursing Services will be billed under established nursing services rates under the waiver as a separate, stand-alone service.

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Unit Designation
Community Access Services (group)	3.04	3.10	15 minute
Community Access Services (individual)	7.26	7.41	15 minute
Prevocational Services	3.04	3.10	15 minute
Supported Employment (individual)	7.26	7.41	15 minute
Supported Employment (group)	1.80	1.84	15 minute
Community Living Supports	4.93	5.03	15 minute
Community Living Services (daily)	128.52	131.09	daily
Support Coordination	149.88	152.88	monthly
Intensive Support Coordination		461.00	monthly
Behavioral Supports Services	N/A	18.75	15 minute

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Unit Designation
Skilled Nursing Services (RN)	10.00	10.00	15 minute
Skilled Nursing Services (LPN)	8.75	8.75	15 minute

These service changes are proposed for the purpose of enhancing the array of services available to individuals with intensive medical and/or behavioral needs and increasing transparency in service delivery and reimbursement.

This notice is made separately and independently from other concurrent notices related to required Transition Planning for state compliance with new CMS-issued regulations for waiver services provided in Home and Community-Based Settings.

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 **August 21, 2014**, 10:00a.m., at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. This item will be one of several waiver public notices up for comment during that hearing. Each public notice will have its own segment of the hearing agenda. Each public notice will have its own segment of the hearing agenda. 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 **September 2, 2014**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

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 **September 11, 2014**, 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 14th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner