

# FAQ



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

## ORDERING, PRESCRIBING OR REFERRING PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

### Overview for New Medicaid Requirements for Ordering, Prescribing or Referring Providers

Traditionally, most providers have enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program to furnish covered services to Medicaid beneficiaries and to submit claims for such services. However, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) now requires physicians or other eligible practitioners to enroll in the Medicaid Program to order, prescribe and refer items or services for Medicaid beneficiaries, even when they do not submit claims to Medicaid.<sup>1</sup> Physicians and other practitioners who order, prescribe or refer items or services for Medicaid beneficiaries, but who choose not to submit claims to Medicaid, are referred to throughout these FAQs as “OPR providers.”

***The new enrollment requirement for OPR providers does not include a requirement to see Medicaid patients or to be listed as a Medicaid provider for patient assignments or referrals.***

Instead, the ACA requires OPR providers to enroll only to meet new ACA program integrity requirements designed to ensure all orders, prescriptions or referrals for items or services for Medicaid beneficiaries originate from appropriately licensed practitioners who have not been excluded from Medicare or Medicaid.

***Physicians or other eligible professionals who are already enrolled in Medicaid as participating providers and who submit claims to Medicaid are not required to enroll separately as OPR providers.*** In addition, this new requirement does not apply to orders, prescriptions or referrals for individuals enrolled in a Medicaid CMO. It is applicable only to the Georgia Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid Program.

It is important for OPR providers to understand the implications of failing to enroll in Medicaid. If you are an OPR provider, the physicians, other practitioners and facilities who actually render services to Medicaid beneficiaries based on your order, prescription or referral, will not be paid for such items or services unless you enroll in Medicaid and your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number is included on the claim submitted to Medicaid by the rendering provider.<sup>2</sup>

***Remember, enrolling in FFS Medicaid as an OPR provider:***

- ***Does not obligate you to see Medicaid patients;***
- ***Does not mean you will be listed as a Medicaid provider for patient assignment or referral;***
- ***Does not require an annual renewal;***
- ***Allows you to continue to see Medicaid patients without billing the Medicaid program if you so choose; and,***
- ***Helps ensure that your orders, prescriptions and referrals for Medicaid patients are accepted and processed appropriately.***

<sup>1</sup> 42 CFR 455.410(b) provides that the State Medicaid agency must require all ordering, prescribing, or referring physicians or other eligible professionals providing services under the State Plan, or under a waiver of the Plan, to be enrolled as participating providers.

<sup>2</sup> 42 CFR 455.440 provides that the State Medicaid agency must require all claims for the payment for items and services that were ordered, prescribed, or referred to contain the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the physician or other professional who ordered, prescribed, or referred such items or services.



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Effective April 1, 2013, OPR providers may begin enrolling in the Georgia FFS Medicaid program. For the months of April through June, 30, 2013, claims submitted to DCH will continue to be paid even if they do not contain the NPI number of an enrolled provider. However, any claim submitted for payment on or after July 1, 2013, even if the date of service on the claim was prior to July 1, will be denied, if the NPI number on the claim is associated with a provider who is not already participating in Medicaid or enrolled as an OPR provider.

### **Failure to Enroll and Requirements for Medicaid Reimbursement for Rendering Providers Who Submit FFS Medicaid Claims**

**Again, if the NPI of the ordering, prescribing, or referring provider noted on the claim of the rendering/billing provider is not enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program, for claims processed on or after July 1, 2013, the claim will not be paid.**

If you are a provider who has rendered services to a FFS Medicaid beneficiary, there are three (3) basic requirements for the NPI number included on your claims submitted after June 30, 2013:

1. The NPI number must belong to a physician or non-physician practitioner who is enrolled in Georgia FFS Medicaid as either a participating Medicaid provider or as an OPR provider.
2. The NPI number submitted on the claim must be for an individual physician or non-physician practitioner (not an organizational NPI).
3. The physician or non-physician practitioner must be of a specialty type that is eligible to order, prescribe, or refer (See Q&A 16 below).

### **Enrollment of OPR Providers**

Beginning April 1, 2013, DCH will begin accepting enrollment applications for OPR providers, i.e., physicians or other practitioners eligible to enroll in Georgia Medicaid for the sole purpose of ordering, prescribing, or referring items or services for Medicaid beneficiaries but not submitting claims to Medicaid. The submission and approval of a completed individual practitioner enrollment application will enroll the physician or other eligible practitioner in the Medicaid Program for the sole purpose of OPR-specific services for Medicaid beneficiaries. These Frequently Asked Questions provide enrollment education for OPR providers subject to the new ACA requirements.



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### Frequently Asked Questions for New Medicaid Requirements for Ordering, Prescribing or Referring Providers

#### **1. Why is Georgia Medicaid requiring OPR providers to become enrolled?**

**A.** The ACA places additional program integrity requirements on state Medicaid agencies. Georgia Medicaid is complying with federal regulation 42 CFR 455.410 regarding the screening and enrollment of providers.

#### **2. What are the requirements for OPR?**

**A.** There are three (3) basic requirements for OPR:

- The physician or non-physician practitioner who wrote the order, prescription or referral must be enrolled in Medicaid as either a participating Medicaid provider or as an OPR provider and his or her NPI number must be included on the claim.
- The provider's NPI number must be for an individual physician or non-physician practitioner (not an organizational NPI).
- The physician or non-physician practitioner must be of a specialty type that is eligible to order, prescribe, or refer.

#### **3. I am currently enrolled as an active provider with Georgia Medicaid. Do I also need to enroll as an OPR provider?**

**A.** No. Providers already enrolled as active Medicaid participating providers do not need to enroll again as an OPR provider.

#### **4. On what date can OPR providers begin submitting applications for enrollment?**

**A.** April 1, 2013.

#### **5. How does the OPR provider enroll as a Georgia Medicaid provider?**

**A.** Georgia Medicaid has an online enrollment process. OPR providers may enroll in Medicaid through the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) Web Portal at:

<https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/default.aspx>. For expedited enrollment, providers should enroll online by:

- Clicking on Provider Enrollment
- Clicking on Enrollment Wizard (scroll to bottom of screen)
- Clicking on Provider Enrollment Application
- Clicking on New Application
- After the application is completed and has been submitted, you will receive an Automated Tracking Number (ATN) number.

To upload a copy of your license and DEA Registration, if applicable:

- Click on Provider Enrollment
- Click on Enrollment Application Status
- Type ATN and Last Name of Provider and click on Search
- Click on Upload Required Documents
- Click on pertinent Attachment Description
- Attach a digital copy of your license and DEA Registration, if applicable. *(Continued on next page)*



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To check the status of your application:

- Click on Provider Enrollment
- Click on Enrollment Application Status
- Type in your ATN and Last Name of Provider and click on Search

### **6. Is there a separate enrollment application for OPR providers?**

**A.** No. OPR providers will complete the same application as those enrolling in Medicaid Fee-for-Service. However, OPR providers will not be required to complete certain sections of the application.

Those sections are:

- Owners and Managing Employees
- Languages
- Special Needs
- Payee Designation

Those fields on the application marked with an asterisk (\*) are required fields. You can enter "N/A" if those sections do not apply. An enrolling OPR provider will be required to submit copies of the following pieces of additional documentation:

- Medical or Other Professional License
- DEA Registration
- Statement of Participation (paper application only)

DCH is creating a new online and paper application strictly for OPR providers; however, it is not expected to be available until May 2013. Until such time, OPR providers must use the current online or paper application.

### **7. If I am strictly an OPR provider, why do I have to accept the terms of the Medicaid Statement of Participation agreement on the enrollment application since I do not submit claims?**

**A.** All providers regardless of what services they perform are required to sign a Statement of Participation. A new Statement of Participation is being created specifically for OPR providers. The OPR Statement of Participation does NOT require the provider to accept Medicaid enrollees or bill Medicaid for his or her services. However, as we said above, this form will not be ready until May 2013. In the meantime, providers are required to complete the current Statement of Participation, which will not obligate them to see Medicaid patients or submit claims.

### **8. What if the provider needs a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number?**

**A.** The provider will need to obtain an individual NPI number before enrolling as an OPR provider. The federal government issues NPIs for health care providers at the following website:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>



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**9. What if the provider is enrolled with another state's Medicaid program? Will the provider need to enroll in all states in which he or she provides service?**

**A:** Yes. Enrollment in another state's Medicaid program does not exempt an OPR provider from the requirement to enroll in the Georgia Medicaid program. As federally mandated, providers are required to enroll in each state where they order, prescribe, refer or render services to Medicaid enrollees.

For example, if a physician located in Alabama and enrolled in the Alabama Medicaid program writes a prescription or orders a test for a Georgia Medicaid beneficiary, the Alabama physician must be enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program or the claim submitted by the Georgia provider that filled the prescription or performed the test will be denied.

**10. How does the Medicaid provider who is rendering the service know the NPI of the OPR provider? Once the provider knows the NPI of the OPR provider, how can they tell if the OPR provider is enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program?**

**A.** It is ultimately the responsibility of the Medicaid provider rendering the service to obtain the NPI of the OPR provider and confirm that the OPR provider is enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program. Each Medicaid provider will need to develop its own internal processes to ensure the enrollment requirement is met or the provider risks the claims being denied. The Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) Web Portal at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/default.aspx> will have a search capability so individuals and entities will be able determine if an OPR provider is enrolled in Georgia Medicaid.

DCH suggests that pharmacies and other providers require any ordering, prescribing or referring provider to include their NPI on any prescription/order/referral he or she writes. This will allow the provider filling the prescription or performing the ordered service to verify the provider's Medicaid enrollment, either as a participating Medicaid provider or as an OPR provider, before preparing the claim.

For retail pharmacies filling a prescription for medication, simply bill the claim using your Point-of-Sale system with the NPI of the prescriber. If the prescriber is not enrolled with Medicaid, you will receive a claim rejection that informs you of the prescriber's status.

**11. If a claim is denied because the OPR provider is not currently enrolled in the Medicaid program, can the OPR provider enroll retroactively?**

**A.** Yes. DCH is amending its retroactive enrollment policy for OPR providers to allow the billing provider to re-submit the claim provided the OPR provider submits their enrollment application within 60 days of the date of service.

**12. Do claims submitted to the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMO) have to follow the OPR requirement?**

**A.** Yes. Georgia Medicaid requires that NPIs for OPR providers be included on all Care Management Organization claims.



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**13. If the NPI number on the claim is for a provider who is not enrolled in Georgia Medicaid, when will the claim denials start?**

**A.** Denials for claims submitted without the NPI number of a provider enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid Program, either as a participating Medicaid provider or as an OPR provider, will begin with claims submitted for claims processing at Medicaid on or after July 1, 2013.

**14. If I am a specialist, and a PCP who is not enrolled in the Medicaid program refers a Medicaid enrollee to my practice for care, will my claim be denied if the PCP will not enroll as an OPR provider and the claim is processed for payment by Medicaid on or after July 1, 2013?**

**A.** Yes.

**15. Is Georgia Medicaid following the CMS policy on the types of providers that can refer?**

**A.** Yes. Georgia Medicaid is complying with federal regulation 42CFR 455.410 and following those guidelines.

**16. Does Georgia Medicaid have a list of types of providers that can OPR?**

**A.** Yes. Medicaid does have a list of types of providers who can be OPR providers. See below.

**Providers who can Order/Refer are:**

Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy - Contract 430

Dental Medicine - Contract 450/460

Dental Surgery - Contract 490

Podiatric Medicine - Contract 550

Optometry - Contract 470

Physician Assistant - Contract 431

Nurse Practitioner - Contract 740

Clinical Psychologist - Contract 570

Certified Nurse Midwife - Contract 480

Clinical Social Worker - Contract 840

Audiologist - Contract 840

**Providers who can Prescribe are:**

Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy - Contract 430

Dental Medicine - Contract 450/460

Dental Surgery - Contract 490

Podiatric Medicine - Contract 550

Optometry - Contract 470

Physician Assistant - Contract 431

Nurse Practitioner - Contract 740

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### **Providers who cannot Prescribe are:**

Clinical Psychologist - Contract 570  
Certified Nurse Midwife - Contract 480  
Clinical Social Worker - Contract 840  
Audiologist - Contract 840

### **Specialty Contract Codes:**

Prescribing - 701  
Referring - 702  
Ordering - 703

### **17. What are the types of NPIs? How can I verify which type of NPI I have?**

**A.** There are two types of NPIs: Type 1 and Type 2. An individual's NPI is deemed a Type 1. An organization's NPI is deemed a Type 2.

**NOTE:** Only Type 1 NPIs can be used for OPR purposes. Again, you may verify your NPI at <https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/NPPESRegistry/NPIRegistryHome.do>

### **18. Am I required to be enrolled at each service location where I perform OPR services?**

**A.** Yes. OPR providers are required to be enrolled at each physical service location where they see Medicaid beneficiaries. Once enrolled, OPR providers will follow the same enrollment process as described previously for each location in which they order, prescribe, or refer services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

### **19. If a provider has applied to be an OPR provider and has received a Medicaid Automated Tracking Number (ATN) but has not yet been notified of his/her enrollment by HPES, can the provider order, prescribe or refer a Medicaid beneficiary and will the rendering provider's claims be paid?**

**A.** Yes. If the application is approved, the effective date of enrollment will be the first day of the month in which the application was received.

### **20. What is the estimated turnaround time at HPES for a provider to be fully enrolled as an OPR Provider once the completed application has been submitted?**

**A.** Once the application and license are received and there are no errors, HPES will normally enroll the provider within ten (10) business days.

### **21. How will providers report the OPR provider for a billed service?**

**A.** Georgia Medicaid is requiring all claims for items and services that were ordered, prescribed, or referred to contain the NPI of the licensed health care professional ordering, prescribing or referring the service. Fee-for-service providers should refer to the appropriate provider manual for information pertaining to claims submissions.

### **22. If Georgia Medicaid is secondary to commercial insurance, would the claim be accepted without an enrolled ordering, prescribing, or referring provider requirement?**

**A.** No. The enrollment requirement also applies if Medicaid is being billed as secondary to commercial insurance.



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### **23. Do Medicare crossover claims require the OPR provider to be enrolled?**

**A.** Yes. Medicare crossover claims are subject to the enrollment requirement.

### **24. Does a provider have to be enrolled as a participating provider or can he or she be enrolled only as an OPR provider?**

**A.** If a provider will only be ordering, prescribing or referring items or services for Medicaid beneficiaries and does not wish to bill Medicaid for any services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries, the provider may enroll as an OPR provider only. OPR providers do not bill Medicaid and are not obligated to treat Medicaid patients. Some examples of providers who may wish to enroll as OPR providers only are charity-care providers, emergency-room physicians, hospitalists, and physicians or other practitioners employed by the Veterans Administration.

Providers should remember that if they enroll as OPR providers, they do not bill Georgia Medicaid directly for any services rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries. If a provider desires to bill Medicaid, he or she must enroll as a full participating Medicaid provider.

### **25. Some charity-care providers, who are not enrolled as Medicaid providers, provide services to Medicaid patients in areas where access to services is limited. These charity-care providers are an important part of the safety net, particularly in areas and specialties with low provider participation in Medicaid. Can Medicaid continue to pay for prescriptions and other services ordered by non-enrolled charity-care providers?**

**A.** No. All OPR providers will be required to be enrolled with the Medicaid program if they continue to order, prescribe, or refer services for Medicaid beneficiaries. If they do not, then the rendering provider will not be paid.

### **26. If a Georgia Medicaid beneficiary is out-of-state and receives services in an emergency room or hospital, can the prescriptions or orders written by the out-of-state provider be reimbursed by Georgia Medicaid? The out-of-state hospital will often enroll with Georgia Medicaid to receive reimbursement for the hospital visit by the Medicaid beneficiary, but it is unlikely that the individual physician prescriber will enroll. How will Georgia Medicaid accommodate out-of-state prescriptions or orders?**

**A.** Federal law requires all OPR physicians or other professionals rendering services under the State Plan to be enrolled as providers. The provider that ordered, prescribed, or referred the services must be enrolled in the Medicaid program in which the beneficiary is eligible, in this case Georgia Medicaid. The NPI of the out-of-state OPR provider must be included on the claim for payment to the provider rendering the services ordered, prescribed, or referred. Therefore, a provider outside Georgia who orders, prescribes, or refers services must be enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program for Georgia Medicaid to pay the claim of the participating provider who actually renders the service. This includes physicians or other professionals employed at hospitals or other health care facilities.

### **27. Who should I contact if I have questions regarding enrollment?**

**A.** Providers should contact Medicaid's fiscal agent Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Services (HPES) at 800-766-4456, press option #0 for the main menu and then press option #4.