

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.

UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT PAYMENTS

For payments made for hospital and nursing home services provided on or after July 1, 2005, State government-owned or operated facilities; non-State government-owned or operated facilities; and Critical Access eligible hospitals which meet departmental requirements, will be eligible for rate payment adjustments. The non-federal share of the payments will be provided by the facilities or the governmental entities with which they are associated, except for Critical Access eligible hospitals for which the non-federal share of the payments will be provided from State appropriations.

The rate payment adjustments will be subject to federal upper payment limits. For the appropriate groupings of State government-owned or operated facilities; non-State government-owned or operated facilities; and all other facilities, aggregate rate adjustment payments available without exceeding upper payment limits will be determined by measuring the difference between:

- Fee-for-service amounts paid for services provided to Medicaid patients and
- Estimated payment amounts for such services if payments were based on Medicare payment principles.

This change is expected to be budget neutral and is made to ensure the state's compliance with related federal regulations.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on the proposed changes should do so before July 14, 2005, to the Board of Community Health, P. O. Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Comments so 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, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on July 14, 2005, at 12:00 p.m. in conjunction with the July meeting of the Board of Community Health. Individuals who are disabled and in need of assistance to participate during the meeting should call (404) 656-4479. The Board will vote on the proposed change after comments have been received. The July Board meeting will be held in the Floyd Room of the Twin Towers Building, 20th Floor, West Tower, 200 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 9th DAY OF June, 2005.

Tim Burgess, Commissioner