

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 CFR 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance, is required to give public notice of any significant proposed changes in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

Effective for dates of service on and after February 11, 2007 and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to modify the payment method for nursing home services as follows:

- The rate will reflect an increase in the nursing home provider fee to \$13.11 per day effective February 11, 2007.
- The growth allowance used to compute reimbursement rates will be increased from 0.0% to 4.5% for dates of service between February 11, 2007 and March 31, 2007. Effective for dates of service on and after April 1, 2007, the growth allowance will be adjusted to 4.0%.
- Effective, April 1, 2007, an incentive fee will be paid to providers who meet specific criteria for quality measures as determined by the Department.

The purpose of these changes is to more accurately match payments to the level of services being provided and to promote improvement in the quality of care for members residing in nursing facilities. These changes are estimated to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$71,919,129 in total funds and \$26,739,532 in state funds. This change is contingent on approval of available federal financial participation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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 **January 25, 2007**, 2 p.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 40th Floor Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. 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 **January 29**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

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 summarized and provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **February 8, 2007** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the February meeting which will be held 10:30 a.m., Atlanta Technical College, The Cleveland L. Dennard Conference Center, 1560 Metropolitan Parkway, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30310.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF JANUARY, 2007

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner