

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.

EXPANSION OF THE PHYSICIAN UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT (UPL) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department proposes to expand the Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment program in 2 ways: (1) Expand the number of facilities eligible to receive Physician UPL funds and (2) Include services provided by mid-level providers. Each is discussed below.

Expand the Number of Facilities Eligible to Receive Physician UPL Funds

Under the current language of Georgia's State Medicaid Plan, "faculty practices affiliated with governmental teaching hospitals located in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)" are eligible to receive Physician UPL payments. The State Plan enumerates that eligible physician faculty practices consist of those affiliated with the following hospitals: Floyd Medical Center, Grady Memorial Hospital, Medical Center of Central Georgia, Memorial Health University Medical Center, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Satilla Regional Medical Center, and The Medical Center. The Department proposes to expand the Physician UPL program to all physician practices affiliated with a teaching hospital enrolled in Georgia Medicaid.

Include Services Provided by Mid-Level Providers

Under the current language of Georgia's State Medicaid Plan, the Department makes Physician UPL payments for services provided by physicians only. The Department proposes to expand the Physician UPL program to include services provided by eligible mid-level providers. Eligible mid-level providers would be defined as Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), Clinical Social Workers (CSWs), Clinical Psychologists, Optometrists, and Dentists.

Under the proposal, participation in the Physician UPL program would continue to be voluntary and contingent upon the eligible physician practice securing a commitment from a Hospital Authority, or other government body, to make an intergovernmental transfer (IGT) of funds to the Department to finance the state share of the UPL payment. The Department estimates that the total increased cost of the proposal would be \$5,471,064 (\$5,471,064 Federal Funds, \$0 State Funds).

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **May 17, 2016** 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. 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 **May 24, 2016**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966.

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 **June 9, 2016** 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 12th DAY OF MAY, 2016

Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner