

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 services provided on and after July 1, 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 2006 cost report, using the reporting format and underlying instructions established by the Department, will be used to determine a facility's allowable cost that will be the basis for computing a rate.
- The growth allowance used to compute reimbursement rates will be **1.19%**.
- The rate will be adjusted to reflect a decrease to the nursing home provider fee from \$13.11 to \$12.21 per day effective July 1, 2007.

The purpose of these changes is to more accurately match payments to the level of services being provided. These changes are estimated to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$5,259,006 in total funds; \$2,000,000 in state funds. This change is contingent on approval of available federal financial participation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A summary of proposed rates may be obtained by written request to the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

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 May 23, 2007, 1 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 June 6, 2007, 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 will be summarized and provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the June 14, 2007 Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes after comments have been received. The June Board meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Floyd Room of the Twin Towers Building, 20th Floor, West Tower, 200 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 10th DAY OF MAY, 2007
Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner