

**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.

**PHYSICIAN AND PHYSICIAN-RELATED PROVIDERS**

***RBRVS***

The Department is proposing to update the maximum allowable reimbursement for physician and physician-related services currently paid based on Medicare’s Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) reimbursement. Effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2008, and subject to payment at fee for service rates, such services will be reimbursed based on 80% of the 2007 RBRVS as specified by Medicare for the Atlanta area for participating Medicare providers. Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids providers subject to this change include: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Midwives, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Podiatrists, Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons, providers of Children’s Intervention Services and Children’s Intervention School Services, Psychologists, Optometrists, and providers of Family Planning. The update does not apply to providers billing for speech therapy, dialysis professional services, or the following CPT codes: 99296, 99294, 99299, 99300, 99431, 99298, 99436, 99433, 92586, 99440, 31500, 76811, 76820, 99238, 99293, 59409, 76819, 59515, and 59514.

Effective July 1, 2008, Care Management Organizations are required to increase their current per unit reimbursement rates for physician and physician related services as prescribed above for their contracted providers to effect a rate change comparable to the proposed change in fee-for-service rates.

This change is estimated to increase annual expenditures as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Aged, Blind, and Disabled	\$9,537,986	\$3,420,322
Low Income Medicaid	18,500,525	6,634,288
PeachCare for Kids	920,100	230,301
All Programs	<u>\$28,958,611</u>	<u>\$10,284,911</u>

***Global Maternity***

Effective July 1, 2008, and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to increase payment for global maternity delivery physician services as billed under CPT codes 59400, 59510, 59610, and 59618 by 5%. The purpose of this change is to more accurately match payments to the level of services being provided.

Effective July 1, 2008, Care Management Organizations are required to increase their current per unit reimbursement rates for global maternity delivery payments for CPT codes 59400, 59510, 59610, and 59618 for their contracted providers to effect a rate change comparable to the proposed change in fee-for-service rates.

This change is estimated to increase annual expenditures as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Aged, Blind, and Disabled	\$1,217,546	\$436,612
Low Income Medicaid	3,474,144	1,245,828
PeachCare for Kids	<u>415,813</u>	<u>104,078</u>
All Programs	<u>\$5,107,503</u>	<u>\$1,786,518</u>

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 20, 2008**, 1 p.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 30, 2008**, 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 provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **June 12, 2008** 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 8th DAY OF MAY, 2008**

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner