

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.

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES (PRTFs)

Effective for services provided on and after January 1, 2010, and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid reimbursement for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF):

1. Improve rate accuracy by permitting the use of cost reports based on audited financial results for years more recent than PRTF 2006 fiscal years;
2. Define the mid-point of each rate year as January 1st and trend for inflation, up to the existing \$370/day cap, from the most recently available audited cost report;
3. Increase the utilization adjustment factor from 80% to 90% to minimize payment for excess capacity.
4. Clarify that rates for new providers, initially based on the median rate of existing PRTFs, are interim rates and are subject to cost settlement up to the existing \$370/day cap once audited cost reports are available.

These changes are made for the purpose of improving rate accuracy and are estimated to be budget neutral.

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 **October 28, 2009**, 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 **October 30, 2009**, 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 **November 12, 2009**, 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 OCTOBER, 2009

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner