**PUBLIC NOTICE (REVISED)**

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

**Changes to Hospital Directed Payment Preprint (HDPP) Addition of Free-Standing Pediatric Hospitals**

Pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health proposes to amend the Medicaid hospital state-directed payment program under managed care, effective July 1, 2025. This amendment would expand eligibility to include Georgia's private, free-standing pediatric hospitals.

Under the current program, private, acute care hospitals are eligible, with the exclusion of general cancer hospitals, free-standing children's hospitals, rehabilitative/psychiatric/long-term acute care hospitals, rural emergency hospitals, geriatric psychiatric hospitals, and critical access hospitals.

This proposed change removes the exclusion for free-standing children's hospitals, thereby allowing them to participate in the Hospital Directed Payment Program (HDPP). The list of excluded providers would be revised slightly to also exclude geriatric psychiatric hospitals.

This change is expected to increase provider funding for pediatric services to the Medicaid population and strengthen support for Georgia's pediatric healthcare workforce.

The program currently provides for the aggregate difference between Medicare reimbursement and Medicaid managed care base payments, with an additional 10% increase on Medicaid managed care base payments for those eligible hospitals in Pool 2 of the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program.

The following table reflects the updated estimated SFY 2026 payments for participating private hospitals, inclusive of free-standing pediatric hospitals:

| | State Funds | Federal Funds | Total Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| SFY 2026 | $186,576,215 * | $368,710,140 | $555,286,355 |

*Funded via provider payments

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 **July 2, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83413422780?pwd=H3XY8bE0aCjLn73W06l7C0ax7idzvH.1

Meeting ID: 834 1342 2780
Passcode: 488831

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Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **July 9, 2025**, to Danisha Williams c/o the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. ***Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.***

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **August 14, 2025,** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 27th DAY OF JUNE 2025**
**Russel Carlson, Commissioner**