

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.

ESTABLISH A NEW CATEGORY FOR PAYMENT IN THE RURAL HOSPITAL NEWBORN DELIVERY PROGRAM STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA)

Pursuant to House Bill 68 passed in the 2025 legislative session and pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health seeks to add an additional designation and payment for the Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program.

Currently under the Medicaid State Plan, Georgia provides an enhanced payment for deliveries in rural settings under the Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program. The enhanced payment is designated for newborn deliveries for hospitals in rural counties with populations less than 35,000.

Effective July 1, 2025, the Department seeks CMS approval for an additional designation to provide an enhanced payment to hospitals for newborn deliveries in rural counties having populations between 35,001 and 50,000. The Department seeks to set the Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program add-on payment for these hospitals at \$1,500 per delivery.

The cost impact is as follows:

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2026	\$2,165,425	\$4,262,075	\$6,427,500

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 27, 2025, at 2:30 p.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/81001983186?pwd=IdKMRE0CbxLqOrKnDZkRMDbfVJeP0l.1>

Meeting ID: 810 0198 3186

Passcode: 895941

One tap mobile

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- +1 689 278 1000 US
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- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
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Meeting ID: 810 0198 3186
Passcode: 895941

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **June 3, 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 **June 12, 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 19th DAY OF May 2025
Russel Carlson, Commissioner