

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.

Increase Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to increase supplemental quality incentive payments to eligible nursing facilities effective July 1, 2021.

This change is estimated to increase funding for eligible nursing facilities.

	State Cost	Federal Cost	Total Cost
SFY 2022	\$12,000,000	\$24,253,776	\$36,253,776

The FY 2022 Appropriation Bill (HB81) includes funding for the Department to increase supplemental quality incentive payments to eligible nursing facilities. The Department collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to develop the following quality incentives.

1. Nursing Staffing Hours

Quality Incentive	Description	Source Document
Nursing Staff Hours per on-site day	Facilities must meet minimum staffing requirement of 2.5 hours per patient day.	Quarterly Provider Fee Report

DCH recommends the following changes:

Nursing Hours	Current Add-on	Recommended	Number of Facilities Impacted *
2.5	1.0%	1.0%	16
2.7	1.0%	1.5%	37
3.0 +	1.0%	2.0%	289

2. Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)

BIMS Score	Description	Source Document
	The percentage of total nursing home residents with decreased cognitive levels who require assistance with activities of daily living	Data extract from quarterly MDS.

DCH recommends the following changes:

BIMS Score	Current add-on	Recommended	Number of Facilities Impacted *
Less Than 20%	0.0%	1.0%	41
20% - 29%	1.0%	3.0%	78
30% - 44%	2.5%	5.0%	170

45% - 100%	5.5%	7.0%	59
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*Quarter ending 12/31/2020

3. Infection Control Specialist

DCH recommends that all nursing facilities hire and retain an Infection Control Specialist. An Infection Control Specialist includes the following: Infection Preventionist, Infection Control Nurse, Registered Nurse Infection Preventionist, or an Infection Control and Preventionist.

The Infection Control Specialist must be a full-time permanent position. The individual must be certified by the Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology and possess the CIC Certificate.

Acceptable training and education include: Post-Secondary Education in a health-related field including, but not limited to, medicine, nursing, laboratory technology, or public health, and two (2) years of experience in infection prevention and control. This experience must include the identification of infectious disease processes, surveillance, Epidemiology investigation, and preventing and controlling the transmission of Infectious Agents.

Quality Incentive	Recommended	Number of Facilities Impacted
Hire and Retain an Infection Control Specialist	2%	345

4. Adjustments to Clinical Measures

DCH recommends the following clinical measures be removed from the Quality Incentive Program as CMS is no longer tracking or monitoring them as quality metrics:

- a. Percent of long-stay residents who have moderate to severe pain; and
- b. Percent of short-stay residents who have moderate to severe pain.

DCH recommends the following clinical measure be adjusted to reflect the current terminology:

- a. Percent of short stay residents with pressure ulcers, new/worsened will be changed to: Changes in Skin Integrity Post-Acute: Pressure Ulcer/Injuries, to include the addition of new or worsened unstageable pressure ulcers.

Number of facilities impacted can change as quarterly data is updated.

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 **June 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m., via WebEx 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 prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Event number: 127 164 4069

Event password: Public

To join the online event

1. [Click here](#) to join the online event.

Or copy and paste the following link to a browser:

https://dchevents.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=dchevents&service=6&rnd=0.9979942901065506&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fdchevents.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000049eb46ac4e07d459b5005ff0d11a0239af5cc7bb10958396f1177b76594ba442c%26siteurl%3Ddchevents%26confViewID%3D195919141860835150%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAARjRYI9baqF0sCrNRR29r5TL3tIhP63BiSf4U6KJ2_Ikg2%26

2. Click "Join Now".

Join the audio conference only: Call-in toll number (US/Canada): 1-650-479-3207 Access code:
127 164 4069

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **June 24, 2021**, to 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 Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **Special Call June 29, 2021** 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.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2021
Frank W. Berry, Commissioner