

ABBREVIATED PUBLIC NOTICE

Extension of Postpartum Services 1115 Demonstration Waiver

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) hereby notifies the public that it intends to submit a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend the provision of postpartum services from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months, effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2021.

Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.408, DCH will provide the public the opportunity to review and provide input on the Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver. This notice provides details about the waiver submission and serves to open the 30-day public comment period, which closes on Monday, November 9, 2020.

Waiver Description

Currently, Georgia's State Plan provides for the provision of all pregnancy-related and postpartum services for a period of sixty (60) days beginning on the last day of the woman's pregnancy. The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is seeking approval of a five-year Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for an additional one hundred and twenty (120) days or four (4) months; thereby extending postpartum services from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months. The extension of postpartum services will serve to reduce the rate of postpartum maternal morbidity and mortality.

Demonstration Waiver Goals and Objectives

The goals of the Demonstration Waiver are as follows:

1. Reduce the rate of postpartum morbidity and mortality by providing continuity of care and care coordination;
2. Support the long-term sustainability of the state's Medicaid program by maintaining fiscal balance.

Locations to Access Copies of Public Notice and Waiver Application

This public notice and the 1115 Demonstration Waiver application are available on the Department's website homepage, at <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/postpartumservices>. This public notice and the 1115 Demonstration Waiver application are also available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. A comprehensive statewide list of locations of all Division and Family and Children Serves offices can be found at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>.

Public Hearings and Public Input Procedure

Two opportunities for public comment will be available. The first meeting will be held on October 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and will take place virtually via WebEx. Log-in information is provided below. The second meeting will be held on October 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in

Savannah, Georgia, and will take place in-person. DCH will accept oral comments at both meetings. The meeting information for both meetings is listed below:

- **WebEx Audio**

An opportunity for public comment will be held on Thursday, **October 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., via WebEx audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Event number: 127 018 2352

Event password: Public

To join the online event:

1. Copy the following link to a browser:

<https://dchevents.webex.com/dchevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb1f15c274a1077f7db5bf0f92172dcd0>

2. Click "Join Now".

Join the audio conference only:

Call-in toll number (US/Canada): 1-650-479-3207 Access code: 127 018 2352

- **Savannah, Georgia**

Monday, October 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m. EST

Mercer School of Medicine-Savannah Campus

Hoskins Center for Biomedical Research

1250 East 66th Street, Savannah, GA 31404

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during the meeting should notify Matthew Krull at Matthew.Krull@dch.ga.gov or call (404) 651-5016 no later than 24 hours ahead of the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodation can be provided.

Individuals attending in-person will be required to comply with the requirements of the Mercer School of Medicine pertaining to the wearing of masks and other restrictions due to COVID-19.

Individuals wishing to provide written comments on or before **November 9, 2020** may submit comments at <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/postpartumservices> or to Lynnette R. Rhodes, c/o the Board of Community Health, at the following address: Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. Comments must be postmarked by **November 9, 2020** to be accepted.

Public comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **December 10, 2020** Board meeting. The Board will vote on any 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 8th DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner