

8/2/07

## Medicaid Issue Update: Assignment of Newborns

Dear Members:

**Many of you have shared concerns regarding newborn patients being assigned to providers other than your practice. Because of these concerns, the Dept. of Community Health (DCH) has asked that we share the following information with you (in italics below).**

*When a baby is born to a Medicaid member, the birth hospital notifies DCH of the newborn via the GHP web portal so that the baby can be enrolled promptly in Medicaid. Upon notification, DCH assigns the baby a Medicaid number. The newborn information, including the Medicaid number, is sent to the CMO in which the mother is enrolled on a daily basis. The baby is then automatically enrolled in the mother's plan as of the date of their birth.*

*As long as this newborn notification has occurred in a timely and accurate manner, the parent of your newborn patient should be able to have you assigned as the PCP on or before one week of age, as long as you are a participating provider with the CMO of the baby. The mother would simply call her CMO to request PCP assignment.*

*If you are not a participating provider in the mother and baby's plan and the mother wants you to continue to see her baby, then the mother would have to call Georgia Families and request a plan change. Please note that it may take up to 59 days for a change in CMO to become effective.*

If parents are experiencing barriers to securing you as their PCP despite best efforts at compliance with the above DCH recommendations by your hospital, the parent and your front office, please inform us of the specifics at [medicaidquestions@gaaap.org](mailto:medicaidquestions@gaaap.org). Thank you.

*Martin C. Michaels, MD, FAAP*  
President