

BLASTFAX!

***Medicaid Increases Payment Levels on
CPT Newborn Care Codes; Reverses Earlier Policy***

The Georgia Department of Community Health, which operates the Medicaid & PeachCare program, has amended its payment levels upward for newborn care CPT codes back to rates paid in 2008. This reversal of previous DCH policy which it implemented early in 2009 is welcomed by the Chapter. In January, DCH contended that when CPT renumbered certain newborn codes for 2009 they were “new codes” and thus triggered their policy of paying new codes at a rate lower than the previous rates paid in 2008. The Chapter advocated to DCH that the code payment levels should have been unchanged as they were merely re-numbered codes by CPT, and not “new” code services. The Chapter continued to advocate this position and was joined by other physicians and groups. We appreciate the DCH’s reconsideration of its position and this recent action.

This change will represent an increase in payment for these codes under the Georgia Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) plan. These rates will be effective for January 1, 2009 dates of service and forward. Medicaid FFS will automatically reprocess claims for the specific codes to their original reimbursement levels. The reprocessed claims were done by DCH on Oct. 3.

DCH sent out a banner message on this topic on October 2 (*attached*). However, this action affects Medicaid FFS only, and the Medicaid CMO’s are another matter. However, since it is common for CMO’s to express their reimbursement rates as a percentage of the current Medicaid fee schedule, we expected the CMO’s to follow the lead of Medicaid FFS. Accordingly, the Chapter contacted the Medicaid CMOs and learned the following:

Amerigroup amended its payment levels to match Medicaid FFS rates effective October 2, 2009. However, it will not reprocess claims retroactively to January.

PeachState Health Plan is “loading the renumbered codes into our system” and expects to be paying at the new rates in 2-3 weeks. It has not yet made a decision about whether it will reprocess prior claims.

WellCare has amended its payment levels to match Medicaid FFS rates effective October 2, 2009. It has not yet made a decision about whether it will reprocess prior claims

For a full list of Georgia Medicaid Fee for Service Schedule of Maximum Allowable Payments via the Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) visit website at www.ghp.georgia.gov and view this document under the section entitled Medicaid Provider Manuals.



Provider Communication

Subject: Pediatric Codes – Professional Services	Priority: High
Date: October 2, 2009	Message ID: ACSBNR10022009_1

Dear Providers,

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2009, the Department is amending its maximum allowable reimbursement rate for certain renumbered newborn care services CPT codes to the rates associated with the service prior to January 1, 2009. The following table lists the specific renumbered codes, former codes and the associated reimbursement. The codes and rates are also accessible on the Schedule of Maximum Allowable Payments via the Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) website at www.ghp.georgia.gov/

Renumbered Code (01/01/09)	Former Code	Description	Max Allow 01/01/09
99460	99431	Init nb em per day, hosp	\$ 64.89
99462	99433	Sbsq nb em per day, hosp	\$ 34.66
99463	99435	Same day nb discharge	\$ 83.17
99464	99436	Attendance at delivery	\$ 82.53
99465	99440	Nb resuscitation	\$ 162.57
99468	99295	Neonate crit care, initial	\$ 683.12
99469	99296	Neonate crit care, subsq	\$ 341.09
99471	99293	Ped critical care, initial	\$ 690.72
99472	99294	Ped critical care, subsq	\$ 342.03
99478	99298	Ic, lbw inf < 1500 gm subsq	\$ 118.51
99479	99299	Ic lbw inf 1500-2500 g subsq	\$ 113.54
99480	99300	Ic inf pbw 2501-5000 g subsq	\$ 111.75

The Department will automatically reprocess claims for the aforementioned codes for dates of service on and after January 1, 2009. The automatic claim reprocessing is scheduled Saturday, October 3, 2009. No further action is warranted from the provider regarding claim reprocessing. The reprocessed claim should be listed on the October 5th Remittance Advise (RA)—please monitor to determine the claim disposition. For additional information, please contact the GHP Provider Inquiry line toll free at (800) 766-4456.