

Medicaid Attestation Problem Remains Unresolved; Contact Your Legislators to Urge Action Now

Last April, when the Georgia legislature adjourned its 2017 session, the budget they passed included increases in certain CPT codes to 100% of Medicare (2014) for PCP's as well as certain pediatric specialists. It also contained language and an appropriation to resolve the "attestation problem". This action was necessary to correct the Medicaid policy that limited the increases to only those PCP's who attested in 2013 and 2014 for the ACA increases and which made providers ineligible if they merely moved their office, changed their practice location, or opened an additional office(s) after January 1, 2015. These policies had the effect of denying many pediatricians from receiving the higher "enhanced" rates passed by the legislature over the past 3 years.

To assist in facilitating the change in the Medicaid attestation policy, we met with Medicaid officials several times in the summer and fall. We believed we were on a path to change the policy to accommodate the many physicians/practices who were unable to attest due to the Medicaid policy. However, Medicaid officials have recently informed us that they are unable to change the current attestation policy due to the estimated cost of making the change the Medicaid. We are, of course, greatly disappointed by this news.

The Georgia General Assembly is now convened for its 2018 session. If you have been denied attestation to receive the enhanced Medicaid rates, **now is the time to contact (phone or email) your legislators—both your state representative and state senator.** Tell them about your situation and why it has caused you to be denied the enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates. Then ask them to contact the chairs of the full Appropriations Committee and the Health Subcommittees to urge them to address this issue in their respective committees. The chairmen are:

- Rep. Terry England (Auburn), Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
- Rep. Butch Parrish (Swainsboro), Chairman, House Appropriations Health Subcommittee
- Sen. Jack Hill (Reidsville), Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
- Sen. Dean Burke (Bainbridge), Chairman, Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee

To find out who your state representatives are, <http://www.gaaap.org/ga-assembly-a-legislative/>. You can contact representatives from your home and/or your practice's catchment area if you would like. We will continue to advocate to resolve this issue at the State Capitol. But your help now will be tremendously valuable. For more information, contact Rick Ward, at 404-881-5091 or rward@gaaap.org.

Ben Spitalnick, MD
President

Melinda Willingham, MD
Chair, Legislative Committee

Hugo Scornik, MD
Chair, Medicaid Task Force