



Brian P. Kemp, Governor

Caylee Noggle, Commissioner

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Dear Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids<sup>®</sup> Providers

The national Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023. As a result, the following 1135 waivers and disaster relief flexibilities have ended, and normal operations will resume:

**Temporary Suspension of Prior Authorization Requirements:**

All Prior Authorization requirements and pre-approval requirements will resume effective immediately.

Prior Authorization requests that were approved on or after March 1, 2020 and automatically extended throughout the duration of the Public Health Emergency without a renewal must be re-authorized if the service is medically necessary and still required.

**Suspension of Pre-Admission Screenings and Annual Resident Reviews (PASRR) Level I and Level II Assessments for 30 days:**

All pre-admission screenings and annual resident reviews, Level I and Level II will resume effective immediately.

**State Fair Hearing Requests and Appeal Timelines:**

The timelines for members to submit an appeal are reinstated effective immediately.

**Provider Enrollment, Screening, and Credentialing Activities:**

All providers and applicants will be required to complete all enrollment and credentialing activities effective immediately. All providers and applicants will be subject to the screening requirements which include the following:

1. Criminal background checks
2. Federal and State database checks
3. In-State licensure requirements
4. Site visits
5. Payment of application fees

All providers are required to revalidate their enrollment effective immediately.



**Provision of Services in Alternative Settings:**

The provision of services in alternative settings is no longer allowed. This applies to all facilities, including, but not limited to, skilled nursing facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities and hospital facilities.

**Suspension of Signature Requirements for the Dispensing of Drugs:**

Signature requirements related to the dispensing of drugs were reinstated on May 1, 2022 and are no longer waived.

**Suspension of Copayments**

Copayments will be reinstated for all applicable services with the following exceptions:

- Copayments and cost sharing may not be applied to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Copayments and cost sharing may not be applied to COVID-19 testing.
- Copayments and cost sharing may not be applied to COVID-19 treatment for individuals who are diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19.
- Copayments and cost sharing may not be applied to items and services for treatment of a condition that may seriously complicate the treatment of COVID-19 for individuals who are diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19.

**Exceptions to the Published Preferred Drug List**

DCH will no longer allow exceptions to the published Preferred Drug List.

**Periodic Interim Payments to Skilled Nursing Facilities**

DCH will no longer make periodic interim payments to skilled nursing facilities.

**The following flexibilities will REMAIN in place until further notice:**

**Suspension of PeachCare for Kids Premiums:**

PeachCare for Kids premiums will remain suspended through the end of State Fiscal Year 2023 (June 30, 2023).



**Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration:**

The \$40 reimbursement rate for COVID-19 Vaccine administration (per dose) will remain in place until further notice.

**Expanded Telehealth Provisions:**

Expanded Telehealth provisions will remain in place until further notice.

**Payments to Enrolled GAPP Providers Who Utilize Family Caregivers for Personal Support Services and Unskilled LPN tasks:**

DCH will continue to allow payments to enrolled GAPP providers who utilize family caregivers for personal support services and unskilled LPN tasks.

**Appendix K Provisions:**

Current Appendix K provisions will remain in place for six (6) months post the end of the Public Health Emergency.

As always, we thank you for your participation in the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Call Center at 770-325-9600 or 1-800-766-4456.