



## ACA Primary Care Rate Increase (PCRI) - FAQ's

### **Program background**

The final federal rules for implementing the primary care physician rate increase established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) were issued in November 2012. Under Section 1202 of the PPACA Medicaid payment for certain primary care services furnished by certain physicians in calendar years 2013 and 2014 must be at rates no less than the Medicare rates in effect in those calendar years.

Source: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-06/pdf/2012-26507.pdf>

### **Who is eligible?**

Healthcare providers who perform eligible primary care services to Medicaid members.

### **Who is not eligible?**

Physicians and physician extenders who are reimbursed through Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Centers (RHC), public health departments, nursing homes or a facility's encounter (visit or per diem rate) or who are not practicing in one of the designated primary care specialties are not eligible for increased rates.

### **How does this enhanced payment differ from my current reimbursement?**

Qualified healthcare providers will be paid the Medicare rates instead of the usual state-established Medicaid rates.<sup>1</sup>

### **What specialties are eligible?**

Board certified pediatricians, family practitioners and internists.

### **What other conditions apply?**

In lieu of the above, a healthcare provider must be working in the community practicing primary care and 60% of the provider's paid Medicaid claims must be comprised of qualified Evaluation and Management (E&M) or vaccine codes during the most recently completed fiscal year.

Additionally, the provider must complete a self-attestation form and this form must be on file with the State of Georgia Department of Community Health.

### **Will I be eligible for retroactive payments if I have not yet attested?**

In order to be eligible for retroactive payments, you must have attested within the first 120 days of the initial attestation period May 1, 2013 – August 31, 2013.

### **What are the attestation cut-off dates?**

Providers who attested before on or before August 31, 2013 are eligible for the retroactive increase beginning January 1, 2013. Providers who attested on or after September 1, 2013 are eligible for the rate increase effective the date the attestation is received by DCH.

### **What services are eligible for the enhanced payment?**

Services eligible for the enhanced payment are listed at:

[https://dch.georgia.gov/sites/dch.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/document/ACA%20CY%202013%20Enhanced%20Provider%20Payment%20Schedule%20Aug%201%20psw%20logo.pdf](https://dch.georgia.gov/sites/dch.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/ACA%20CY%202013%20Enhanced%20Provider%20Payment%20Schedule%20Aug%201%20psw%20logo.pdf).

### **What claim service dates are applicable?**

The effective date for the enhanced payments begins with service date of January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> The increase will apply to a specific set of services and procedures that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) designates as "primary care services." Eligible providers are defined by Section 1902(a) (13) (C) of the Social Security Act (SSA), as amended by the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA).

**What additional amounts can I expect to receive for the PCRI?**

Eligible providers can expect to receive the payment differential between their contracted rate and the current Medicare equivalent rate for selected E&M and vaccine administration codes provided between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014.

**Examples:**

Medicaid Fee	=	\$32.00
Medicare Fee	=	\$38.00 (Medicaid Enhanced Payment)
Contracted Rate	=	<u>\$42.00</u> (Above the Medicaid Enhanced Payment)

**No additional PCRI payment will be received**

Medicaid Fee	=	\$32.00
Medicare Fee	=	\$38.00 (Medicaid Enhanced Payment)
Contracted Rate	=	<u>\$35.00</u> (Below the Medicaid Enhanced Payment)
<b>Additional PCRI</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>\$ 3.00</b>

**If a contracted amount is more than the Medicaid Enhanced Payment, will the payment differential be recouped?**

No. Any originally disbursed payments for eligible claims will not be recouped if the contracted rate exceeds the Medicaid Enhanced Payment.

**How will I know which claims received the PCRI payment differential?**

You will receive a separate explanation of payment (EOP) that will **only** include PCRI eligible claims.

**Does this increase include services to PeachCare for Kids® members?**

The increase rates **only** apply to Medicaid members receiving the eligible primary care services. The same eligible services rendered to PeachCare for Kids® members are **not applicable**.

**Will Peach State Health Plan pay the enhanced rate at the time of the initial claim processing?**

No, Peach State Health Plan will process a quarterly reconciliation based on payments processed during a specific quarter.

**How long will these enhanced rates be available?**

The enhanced payment rate will only be available for the limited periods of the calendar years 2013 and 2014. At the end of this period, the enhanced federal funding for this program sunsets and the enhanced rate for Medicaid services will end.

**When can I expect to receive my reconciliation payouts from Peach State Health Plan?**

Peach State Health Plan plans to make the 1<sup>st</sup> reconciliation payment for claims with dates of service January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013 no later than February 26, 2014. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reconciliation payment for claims with dates of service July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 will be made no later than March 28, 2014.

**Who should I call if I have questions?**

Please contact your Provider Relations representative, or Peach State Health Plan Provider Services at 1-866-874-0633 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.