



Alabama Medicaid Agency

501 Dexter Avenue
P.O. Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624
www.medicaid.alabama.gov
e-mail: almedicaid@medicaid.alabama.gov



ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor

Telecommunication for the Deaf: 1-800-253-0799
334-242-5000 1-800-362-1504

STEPHANIE MCGEE AZAR
Acting Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE ALABAMA STATE PLAN FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Effective January 1, 2013, the Alabama Medicaid Agency is proposing to amend Attachment 4.19 B of the Alabama State Plan for Medical Assistance.

Section 1902(a)(13)(C) of the SSA, as amended by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), requires minimum levels of Medicaid payment for certain primary care services provided by certain physicians. Payment by state Medicaid agencies for primary care services administered by certain physicians must be at least as much as the greater of:

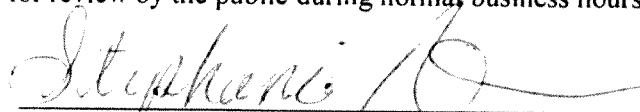
- The Medicare rates in effect in calendar years 2013 and 2014
- The rate that would be applicable using the calendar year 2009 Medicare physician fee schedule conversion factor (CF)

Alabama Medicaid will receive 100 percent federal financial participation (FFP) for the difference between the July 1, 2009 Medicaid state plan rates and the appropriate calendar year 2013 and 2014 Medicare rates as defined above under the provisions of the approved Medicaid State Plan. The Agency has until March 31, 2013 to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that is effective on January 1, 2013. As is common practice for states changing reimbursement rates to make retroactive adjustments to claims after a SPA has been approved, Alabama Medicaid will make retroactive payments from January 1, 2013. This procedure provides additional time for states to make system changes to reflect this final rule. The minimum payment level applies to physicians whom can self-attest to a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, and pediatric medicine or a subspecialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Board of Physician Specialties, or the American Osteopathic Association. As part of that attestation, the physician must specify that they are either Board certified in an eligible specialty or subspecialty and/or that 60 percent of the Medicaid claims for the prior year were for the E&M and vaccine administration codes specified in the regulation.

Primary care subject to the increased payment are Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Evaluation and Management (E&M) procedure codes 99201 through 99499, and vaccine administration codes 90460, 90461, 90471, 90472, 90473, 90474, or their successor codes.

A copy of the proposed changes will be made available upon request for public review at each county office of the Department of Human Resources and the State Office of the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Written comments concerning this change are welcome and should be mailed to Administrative Secretary, Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue, P.O. Box 5624, Montgomery, AL 36103-5624. All written comments will be available for review by the public during normal business hours at the above address.


Stephanie McGee Azar, Acting Commissioner