



April 14, 2020

Dear Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids® Providers:

In response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, Georgia's Department of Community Health (DCH) submitted a Section 1135 Waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 28, 2020. Georgia received approval for several its requested provisions on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, while other requests are still pending at this time.

As part of the approved provisions, DCH was granted the flexibility to suspend or modify certain Medicaid fee-for-service prior authorization requirements should DCH deem such changes to be necessary to respond to the public health emergency. Specifically, Section 1135(b)(1)(C) allows for a waiver or modification of prior authorization requirements if prior authorization processes are outlined in detail in the State Plan for particular benefits. Approval of this waiver provision is not a blanket waiver to suspend all prior authorizations for the Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® programs, but instead provides flexibility for DCH to employ when necessary in its response.

At this time, DCH is suspending prior authorization requirements for non-elective inpatient hospital admissions only. All other prior authorizations remain in effect.

DCH will continue to monitor the evolving nature of this unprecedented public health emergency, make updates, and use its existing authority and flexibility offered by CMS to make additional program changes at the appropriate times moving forward.

Should you have additional questions regarding the contents of this banner message, please contact the DXC Provider Call Center at 1-800-766-4456.



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**