

# 2026 Provider Manual



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# Welcome

Welcome to Peach State Health Plan. Thank you for participating in our network of participating physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare professionals.

## How to Use This Provider Manual

Peach State Health Plan is committed to assisting its provider community by supporting their efforts to deliver well-coordinated and appropriate health care to our members. Peach State Health Plan is also committed to disseminating comprehensive and timely information to its providers through this Provider Manual (“Manual”) regarding the health plan’s operations, policies, and procedures. Providers can locate the most updated version of this manual on our website at [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). Additionally, providers may be notified via bulletins and notices posted on the website. Providers may contact our Provider Services Department at 1-866-874-0633 regarding any questions about this manual or its contents. In accordance with the Provider Contract, providers are required to comply with the provisions of this Manual. Peach State Health Plan routinely monitors compliance with the various requirements in this Manual and may initiate corrective action, including denial or reduction in payment, suspension, or termination if there is a failure to comply with any requirements of this Manual.

## Key Contacts and Important Phone Numbers

The following table includes several important telephone and fax numbers available to providers and their office staff. When calling, it is helpful to have the following information available:

1. The provider’s NPI number; 2. The practice Tax ID Number; 3. The member’s ID number

HEALTH PLAN INFORMATION		
Website	<a href="http://pshpgeorgia.com">pshpgeorgia.com</a>	
Health Plan address	1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100 Atlanta, GA 30339	
Department	Phone	Fax or Website
Provider Services	1-866-874-0633	1-877-683-3155
Member Services	1-800-704-1484 TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487	1-800-659-7518
Medical Management/ Care Management	1-800-504-8573	1-866-532-8835
Nurse Advice Line	1-800-704-1484, option #2 Member Services, then option #4 for Nurse Advice Line	
Behavioral Health (BH)	1-866-874-0633	
BH Medicaid Inpatient	1-866-874-0633	1-844-263-1379
BH Medicaid Outpatient	1-866-874-0633	1-844-870-5064
Centene Dental	1-844-464-5632	<a href="https://www.centenedental.com/">https://www.centenedental.com/</a>
Centene Vision	1-866-458-2139	<a href="https://www.centenevision.com/">https://www.centenevision.com/</a>
Evolent	1-888-999-7713	<a href="http://my.newcenturyhealth.com">http://my.newcenturyhealth.com</a>
Georgia Partnership for Teleheath	1-866-754-4325	

## Secure Provider Portal

Peach State Health Plan offers a robust secure provider portal with functionality that is critical to serving members and to ease administration for the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids products for providers.

### Functionality

Peach State Health Plan is now partnered with Availity as the portal of choice. Access [Availity Essentials](#). The Portal can be accessed at [Provider.pshpgeorgia.com](https://Provider.pshpgeorgia.com). All users of the secure provider portal must complete a registration process.

#### Once registered, providers may:

- Check eligibility and view member roster;
- View the specific benefits for a member;
- View members remaining yearly deductible and amounts applied to plan maximums;
- View the status of all claims that have been submitted regardless of how submitted;
- Update provider demographic information (address, office hours, etc.);
- For primary care providers, view and print patient lists. The patient list will indicate the member's name, ID number, date of birth, care gaps, disease management enrollment, and product in which they are enrolled;
- Submit authorizations and view the status of authorizations that have been submitted for members;
- View, submit, copy and correct claims;
- Submit claims for Reconsideration;
- Submit batch claims via an 837 file;
- View and download explanations of payment (EOP);
- View a member's health record, including visits (physician, outpatient hospital, therapy, etc.), medications, and immunizations;
- View gaps in care specific to a member, including preventive care or services needed for chronic conditions;
- Send and receive secure messages with Ambetter staff.
- Access both patient and provider analytic tools.
- Manage Account access allows you to perform functions as an account manager such as adding portal accounts needed in your office, and managing permission access for those accounts.

### Disclaimer

Providers agree that all health information, including that related to patient conditions, medical utilization and pharmacy utilization, available through the portal or any other means, will be used exclusively for patient care and other related purposes as permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

### Nondiscrimination of Health Care Service Delivery

Peach State Health Plan complies with the guidance set forth in the final rule for Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which includes notification of nondiscrimination and instructions for accessing language services in all significant Member materials, physical locations that serve our Members.

All Providers who join the Peach State Health Plan Provider network must also comply with the provisions and guidance set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH).

Peach State Health Plan requires Providers to deliver services to Peach State Health Plan members without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. Providers must not discriminate against members based on their payment status and cannot refuse to serve based on varying policy and practices and other criteria for the collecting of member financial responsibility from Peach State Health Plan members.

## Confidentiality & Privacy

Peach State Health Plan abides by applicable federal and state laws which govern the use and disclosure of mental health information and alcohol/substance use disorder treatment records.

Similarly, Peach State Health Plan's contracted providers are independently obligated to comply with applicable laws and shall hold confidential all member records and agree to release them only when permitted by law, including but not limited to 42 CFR 2.00 et seq., when applicable.

## Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The administrative simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which was signed into law in 1996, require the implementation of measures to standardize electronic transactions in the healthcare industry while protecting the security and privacy of health information used or disclosed in any medium, including oral communications.

As covered entities under these regulations, network providers are obligated to comply with them and any other applicable federal/state laws governing the use and disclosure of mental health information. For more information about HIPAA, please visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). From this CMS main page, select "Regulations and Guidance" and then "HIPAA – General Information."

Peach State Health Plan takes privacy and confidentiality seriously. We have established processes, policies and procedures to comply with HIPAA and other applicable confidentiality/privacy laws.

Please contact the Peach State Health Plan Privacy Officer by phone or in writing with any questions about our privacy practices. Please instruct any member to contact Member Services with any questions they may have about our privacy practices.

## Credentialing

### Credentialing Requirements

Effective 8/1/2015, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) will require all Medicaid providers seeking to enroll in the Peach State Health Plan Provider Network or any other CMO network to be credentialed by the new Centralized Credentialing Verification Organization (CVO). Therefore, it will also be necessary for providers to submit an online credentialing application to the CVO prior to your acceptance into our Provider Network.

For further information regarding the new CVO credentialing process, please visit the DCH provider portal: [www.mmis.georgia.gov](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov) or contact DXC Technology Provider Call Center at 1-800-766-4456.

**Notice:** In order to maintain a current provider profile, providers are required to notify Peach State Health Plan of any relevant changes to their credentialing file in a timely manner.

# Description of Georgia Families

Georgia Families is a statewide, full-risk management system that serves certain Medicaid members, PeachCare for Kids members, and Planning for Healthy Babies® enrollees.

## The GF program is designed to:

- Improve the Health Care status of the member population
- Establish a “Provider Home” for members through its use of assigned Primary Care Providers (PCP’s)
- Slow the rate of expenditure in the Medicaid Program

The Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) serves as the primary web portal for Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids and all related waiver programs administered by the Department of Community Health’s Medical Assistance Plans Division. The GAMMIS portal provides timely communications, data exchange and self-service tools for members and providers with both secure and public access areas and can be accessed at

[www.mmis.ga.gov](http://www.mmis.ga.gov).

GAMMIS is maintained by DXC Technology, the Department of Community Health’s fiscal agent currently contracted to process Medicaid and Peachcare for Kids claims and other non-claim specific payments.

## Helpful Links

Georgia Department of Community Health: <a href="http://dch.georgia.gov">dch.georgia.gov</a>	The Joint Commission: <a href="http://www.jointcommision.org">www.jointcommision.org</a>
National Committee for Quality Assurance: <a href="http://www.NCQA.org">www.NCQA.org</a>	GAMMIS: <a href="http://www.mmis.ga.gov">www.mmis.ga.gov</a>

## Peach State Health Plan

Peach State Health Plan, Inc. is a care management organization (CMO) contracted with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to serve Medicaid and other government services program members. Peach State Health Plan has developed the expertise to work with Medicaid members to improve their health status and quality of life. Our number one priority is the promotion of healthy lifestyles through preventive healthcare. Peach State Health Plan works to accomplish this goal by partnering with the primary care providers (PCP) who oversee the healthcare of Peach State Health Plan members.

Effective June 1, 2006, Centene Corporation® (Centene) began providing Medicaid managed care services to members in the designated regions of Georgia as Peach State Health Plan. Centene and its wholly owned health plans have a long and successful track record offering Medicaid managed care services. For more than 20 years, Centene has provided comprehensive managed care services to the Medicaid population and currently operates health plans in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Peach State Health Plan serves our Georgia members in a manner consistent with our core philosophy that quality healthcare is best delivered locally. Peach State Health Plan is a physician-driven organization that is committed to building interactive partnerships with providers.

## Peach State Health Plan has been designed to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure access to primary and preventive care services
- Improve access to all necessary healthcare services
- Encourage quality, continuity, and appropriateness of medical care
- Provide medical coverage in a cost-effective manner

We at Peach State Health Plan strive to provide members with an improved health status. Peach State Health Plan continually seeks to improve member and provider satisfaction. All of our programs, policies and procedures are designed with these goals in mind. We hope that you will assist Peach State Health Plan in reaching these goals.

## Peach State Health Plan Guiding Principles

- High quality, accessible, cost-effective healthcare for our members
- Integrity and the highest ethical standards
- Mutual respect and trust in our working relationships
- Communication that is open, consistent and two-way
- Diversity of people, cultures and ideas
- Innovation and encouragement to challenge the status quo
- Teamwork and meeting our commitments to one another

Peach State Health Plan allows open practitioner/member communication regarding appropriate treatment alternatives, including medication treatment options, regardless of benefit coverage limitations. Peach State Health Plan does not penalize practitioners for discussing medically necessary or appropriate care with the member.

## Peach State Health Plan Approach

**Recognizing that a strong health plan is predicated on building mutually satisfactory associations with providers, Peach State Health Plan is committed to:**

- Working as partners with participating providers
- Demonstrating that healthcare is a local issue
- Performing its administrative responsibilities in a superior fashion

All of Peach State Health Plan's programs, policies and procedures are designed to minimize the administrative responsibilities in the management of care, enabling you to focus on the healthcare needs of your patients, our members.

## Peach State Health Plan Summary

Peach State Health Plan's philosophy, for our Georgia Medicaid members, is to provide access to high quality, culturally sensitive healthcare services by combining the talents of PCPs and specialty providers with a highly successful, experienced managed care administrator. Peach State Health Plan believes that successful managed care is the delivery of appropriate, medically necessary services - not the elimination of such services.

It is the policy of Peach State Health Plan to conduct its business affairs in accordance with the standards and rules of ethical business conduct and to abide by all applicable federal and state laws.

At Peach State Health Plan, we take the privacy and confidentiality of our members' health information seriously.

We have processes, policies and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and state privacy law requirements. If you have any questions about Peach State Health Plan's privacy practices, please contact our Privacy Official at 1-800-704-1484. In addition to this manual, the Peach State Health Plan Provider Tool Kit (for providers and their staff) includes helpful and valuable information on serving members, and matters specified in the Provider Training Manual are incorporated herein for all purposes.

# Peach State Health Plan At-A-Glance

For your ease, we have included this Reference Guide to assist you in the day-to-day operations of your office.

## MEMBER SERVICES

1-800-704-1484  
Fax 1-800-659-7518 • TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487  
Or Georgia Relay services  
1-800-255-0056 (TDD only) or 1-800-255-0135 (Voice)

## PROVIDER SERVICES

1-866-874-0633 • Fax: 1-800-659-7492

## MEDICAL MANAGEMENT/CARE MANAGEMENT

1-800-504-85733 • Fax: 1-866-532-8835

## NURSE ADVICE LINE

24-hour Nurse Line: 1-800-704-1484

## PHARMACY SERVICES (Retail/Specialty benefits)

Rx Prior Auth Help Desk: 1-866-399-0928  
Prior Authorizations  
1-833-582-2342 (Fax)  
[CoverMyMeds.com](https://covermymeds.com) (Online)

## PHARMACY CLAIM SUBMISSION

Express Scripts (ESI)  
Pharmacy Help Desk: 1-833-750-4403  
<https://prc.express-scripts.com>

## CHEMOTHERAPY/RADIATION THERAPY

1-888-999-7713  
<https://my.newcenturyhealth.com>

## DENTAL

Centene Dental  
1-844-464-5632  
<https://www.centenedental.com/>

## VISION

Centene Vision  
1-866-458-2139  
<https://www.centenevision.com/>

## TELEMEDICINE CONSULT

Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth: 1-866-754-4325

## PAPER CLAIMS SUBMISSION

Peach State Health Plan  
PO Box 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812  
Attn: Claims Department

## FOR CLAIM APPEALS

Peach State Health Plan  
PO Box 3000  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812  
Attn: Claims Department  
Fax: 833- 641- 0213

## RECONSIDERATION RELATED TO CLAIMS

PO Box 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PAPER CLAIM SUBMISSION

Peach State Health Plan  
PO Box 6700  
Farmington, MO 63640-3805  
1-866-874-0633

## ELECTRONIC CLAIM SUBMISSION

### VISION PAPER CLAIM SUBMISSION

Peach State Health Plan  
Centene Vision  
C/O Centene EDI Department  
P.O. Box 7548  
1-800-225-2573, extension 25525  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
or by e-mail at: [EDIBA@centene.com](mailto:EDIBA@centene.com)  
Vision Provider Services: 1-866-458-2139

## DENTAL CLAIM SUBMISSION

Centene Dental – GA Claims  
PO Box 22085  
Tampa, FL 33622-2085

## PRE-SERVICE APPEALS RELATED TO DENIED ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS

\*Member's Consent is required  
Peach State Health Plan  
Grievance and Appeals Coordinator  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA. 30339  
Fax: 1-866-532-8855

# Provider Responsibilities

All Peach State Providers are required to participate in initial and ongoing education and training in accordance with Peach State guidelines and applicable federal and state regulations.

## Primary Care Provider (PCP)

The primary care provider (PCP) is the cornerstone of Peach State Health Plan. The PCP serves as the “medical home” for the member. The “medical home” concept assists in establishing a member-provider relationship and ultimately better health outcomes. The PCP must maintain accurate and current member information and make it available to the Health Plan upon request, in accordance with regulatory, contractual, and HIPAA privacy requirements. All data must be handled securely to protect member confidentiality. This information is critical for member outreach and education initiatives. The PCP is required to adhere to the responsibilities outlined below.

## Covered PCP Services

The PCP is responsible for supervising, coordinating, and providing all primary care to each assigned member. In addition, the PCP is responsible for coordinating and/or initiating referrals for specialty care (both in and out-of network), maintaining continuity of each member’s healthcare and maintaining the member’s Medical Record, which includes documentation of all services provided by the PCP as well as any specialty services, including behavioral health. The PCP is also responsible for sending status reports to member’s behavioral health provider. The PCP shall arrange for other participating physicians to provide members with covered physician services as stipulated in their contract. Each participating PCP shall provide all covered physician services in accordance with generally accepted clinical, legal, and ethical standards in a manner consistent with practitioner licensure, qualifications, training and experience. These standards of practice for quality care are generally recognized within the medical community in which the PCP practices.

### Covered services include:

- Professional medical services, both inpatient and outpatient, provided by the PCP, nurses, and other personnel employed by the PCP. These services include the administration of immunizations, but not the cost of the immunization.
- Periodic health assessments and routine physical examinations (performed at the discretion of the PCP, and consistent with DCH and nationally recognized standards recommended for the age and sex of the covered person).
- Vision and hearing screenings.
- All supplies and medications found on the GA DCH Physician Injectable Drug List Provider Manual when used or provided during a covered member’s office visit. Some Injectable drugs require a prior authorization, which can be obtained by calling 1-800-704-1483 to obtain the correct forms or process. Injectable HCPCS which require prior authorization can be located on the pshp.com website under the online Pre-Auth Tool.
- All tests routinely performed in the PCP’s office during an office visit.
- The collection of laboratory specimens (Note: See the Provider Stat List for information on labs that can be performed and reimbursed in an office setting. All other office based labs must be submitted through our contracted laboratory providers.)
- Voluntary family planning services such as examinations, counseling, and pregnancy testing.
- Well-child care and periodic health appraisal examinations, including all routine tests performed as customarily provided in a PCP’s office.
- Referral to specialty care physicians and other health providers with coordination of care and follow-up after referral.
- PCP’s supervision of home care regimens involving ancillary health professionals provided by licensed nursing agencies. Please note that these services are subject to prior authorization by Peach State Health Plan.

- Any other outpatient services and routine office supplies normally within the scope of the PCP's practice.
- EPSDT Preventive visits performed according to the Bright Futures periodicity schedule, and immunizations according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines, and in keeping with procedures outlined in the Peach State Health Plan Provider Manual.
- A treatment plan developed with member and applicable specialist participation for members who need a course of treatment or regular care monitoring.

## Out of Network Services and Providers

**Peach State Health Plan will approve medical services to an out-of-network provider if these services:**

1. Are not available by an in-network provider;
2. Cannot be provided an in-network provider in a timely manner; and
3. The services are medically necessary, as determined by the member's physician and Peach State Health Plan. Prior authorization may be required based on service.

Based on Peach State Health Plan's contract with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), services provided by an out-of-network provider that the health plan has adequate network coverage may be reimbursed at a rate below the Medicaid fee schedule.

## Behavioral Health at Peach State Health Plan

Peach State Health Plan provides integrated quality physical and behavioral health services to our members. Our integrated services strive to address the whole person and ensure our members have quality of life and better health outcomes. Peach State Health Plan's approach to behavioral health treatment stems from a system of care perspective. We strive to support the children, youth, adults and families we service by providing community based, culturally competent, evidenced based care in the least restrictive environment.

Peach State Health Plan's Quality Improvement (QI) programs are focused on the impact physical and behavioral healthcare services have on the quality of care that our members receive. We are committed to bringing quality integrated care to our members by working in collaboration with groups practices, individual providers, community agencies, community service boards, certified peer support specialist and hospital as well as primary care physicians (PCPs), and medical specialist throughout the communities we serve. We partner with our provider communities to provide access to comprehensive innovative mental health, and substance abuse services that meet the treatment needs of our members and provide a path to recovery. Peach State Health Plan educates and assist physical health and behavioral health providers in the appropriate exchange of healthcare information to ensure continuity of care and holistic services designed to promote recovery and achievement of personal goals.

Peach State Health Plan utilizes both behavioral health and medical utilization reports to measure quality outcomes and shares them with our Quality Improvement (QI) Committee. Benchmarks for performance are measured, and non-compliance with the required performance standards prompts a corrective action plan to address and/ or resolve any identified deficiency shared with the QI committee quarterly. Our behavioral health quality improvement program focuses on achieving quality initiative related to Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Collaborating with our providers to achieve continuous improvement ensures our members receive the care they need to live healthy lives and thrive.

**The goals of the integrated behavioral health program include:**

- Promote integrated behavioral and physical healthcare for members with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and those with dual-diagnosis.
- Provide Care Management services that focus on prevention and interventions that identify at risk members and utilizes innovative best practices to promote engagement in self-care.

- Provide a wide range of recovery based and skill building services that assist our members to achieve long-term independence and quality of life.
- Ensure access to medically necessary services in all level of care and timely delivery of care in the least restrictive environment.
- Increase provider satisfaction through the use of innovative technology, innovative partnerships in the delivery of quality care and assistance in operational management.
- Collaborate with providers to maintain compliance with State, Federal laws, rules and regulations accrediting body guidelines.

To ensure compliance with behavioral health program goals, Peach State Health Plan’s providers will comply with the policies and procedures outlined in this provider manual, Clinical and Payment Policies and Procedures, the agreement with Peach State Health Plan and the practice guidelines, laws, rules and regulations promulgated by CMS, the State and Federal Medicaid. Providers are also required to maintain compliance with the practice guidelines, rules and regulation required by the Department of Community Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Department of Insurance to include guidelines set forth in their provide manuals that describe benefits, service definitions, admission and continued stay criteria and service exclusions.

## Integrated Care

Peach State Health Plan encourages and supports collaborative efforts among primary care providers and other medical/surgical healthcare providers and behavioral health providers. We support whole-person healthcare because physical conditions and mental illness are not independent phenomena, and the treatment of both must be coordinated.

Physical health conditions can and often do exacerbate behavioral health conditions or can trigger mental behavioral issues, such as depression following a cardiac event and abuse of opioids after prescription of pain management medication. Behavioral health conditions can and often do impact physical health conditions. For example, a person with depression may lack the motivation or energy to follow the physical therapist’s recommendations for rehab after a surgery.

The treatment and medication regimens for physical and behavioral health conditions can interact negatively. For example, many psychotropic medications can cause weight gain, which can exacerbate metabolic syndrome or diabetes.

Even differential diagnosis can be complicated if the assessment fails to consider potential physical causes for apparent behavioral health conditions, such as psychosis-like symptoms triggered by high liver enzymes in members with liver disease.

## Communication with the Primary Care Provider

Peach State Health Plan requires Behavioral Health providers to send initial and quarterly (or more frequently if clinically necessary) summary reports of a member’s behavioral health status to the PCP, with the member’s or the member’s legal guardian’s consent. The coordination of care for a member should be clearly documented in the member’s medical record. The documentation of information exchange reports such as this and other documentation requirements will be reviewed during quality audits conducted by Peach State Health Plan.

Providers can identify the name and number for a member’s PCP on the front-side of the Member ID Card or by calling Peach State’s customer service line at 1-800-704-1484. Providers should refer members with known or suspected untreated physical health problems or disorders to their PCP for examination and treatment. Peach State Health Plan will monitor compliance with this requirement thru periodic provider audits. A PCP Communication form is available at [www.pshp.com/provider/resources](http://www.pshp.com/provider/resources) for your use.

Peach State Health Plan requires providers to report specific clinical information to the member's PCP in order to preserve the continuity of the treatment process. With appropriate written consent from the member or their guardian, it is the provider's responsibility to keep the member's PCP, other treating providers and support agencies abreast of the member's treatment status and progress in a consistent and reliable manner. When applicable, such consent shall meet the requirements set forth in 42 CFR 2.00 et seq. If the member requests this information not be given to their PCP, the provider must document this refusal in the member's treatment record, and if possible, the reason why.

**The following information are examples of what must be included in the report to the PCP:**

- A copy or summary of the intake assessment
- Written notification of member's noncompliance with treatment plan (if applicable)
- Member's completion of treatment
- The results of an initial psychiatric evaluation, and initiation of and major changes in psychotropic medication(s) within fourteen (14) days of the visit or medication order
- The results of functional assessments
- Prescription medication, especially when the medication has potential side effects, such as weight gain, that could complicate medical conditions, such as diabetes;
- The member is known to abuse over-the-counter, prescription or illegal substances in a manner that can adversely affect medical or behavioral health treatment;
- The member has lab work indicating need for PCP review and consult;
- The member is receiving treatment for a behavioral health diagnosis that can be misdiagnosed as a physical disorder (panic symptoms can be confused with heart attack symptoms); and
- The member's progress toward meeting the goals established in their treatment plan.

Caution must be exercised in conveying information regarding substance use disorders, which is protected under separate federal law. Peach State Health Plan monitors communication with the PCP, other treating providers and support agencies through regularly scheduled audits. Failure to adhere to these requirements can be cause for termination from the network.

## Preventative Behavioral Health Programs

Peach State Health Plan offers preventative behavioral health programs for our members. A brief description of the programs including who is eligible to participate is listed below. Peach State Health Plan encourages you to refer your members to the programs directly when you see an unmet need. If you would like more information about the programs, or if you have suggestions as to how we can improve our preventative behavioral health programs, please contact Peach State Health Plan Care Management department at 1-800-504-8573.

- Behavioral health Care Management – members discharged from the hospital or who need assistance with care coordination and care planning.
- Depression Disease Management program – health coaching and education for members with Depressive Disorders.
- Substance Abuse Disease Management program – health coaching and education for members with Substance Use Disorders.
- Complex Care Management – care coordination and care planning for members with chronic behavioral health and medical conditions.

## Coordination of Care

Peach State Health Plan's coordination of care process is designed to ensure the coordination and continuity of care during the movement between providers and different level of care settings. During transitions, patients with complex medical needs are at risk for poorer outcomes due to medication errors and other errors of communication among the involved providers and between providers and patients/caregivers.

### **Continuity of healthcare means different things to different types of caregivers, and can be of several types:**

- Continuity of information means including information from prior events in order to coordinate care that is appropriate to the patient's current circumstance.
- Continuity of personal relationships includes recognizing that an ongoing relationship between patients and providers is the foundation that connects care over time and bridges discontinuous events.
- Continuity of clinical management includes coordinating care from one clinical setting to another and ensures a path to recovery.

## Provider Standards of Practice

### **Providers are required to:**

- Submit all documentation in a timely fashion;
- Comply with Peach State Health Plan's Utilization Management Programs;
- Cooperate with Peach State Health Plan's QI Program (e.g., allow review of or submit requested medical records, receive feedback);
- Provide care that meets recognized medical standards and achieves quality outcomes as described in the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and promulgated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).
- Support Peach State Health Plan's access standards;
- Use the concept of medical necessity and evidence-based best practices when formulating a treatment plan and requesting ongoing care;
- Coordinate care with other clinicians and supporting agencies as appropriate, including consistent communication with the PCP as indicated in the Peach State Health Plan QI Program;
- Assist members in identifying and utilizing community support groups and resources;
- Maintain confidentiality of records and treatment and obtain appropriate written consents from members when communicating with others regarding member treatment;
- Notify Peach State Health Plan of any critical incidents;
- Notify Peach State Health Plan of any changes in licensure, any malpractice allegations and any actions by your licensing board (including, but not limited to, probation, reprimand, suspension or revocation of license);
- Notify Peach State Health Plan of any changes in malpractice insurance coverage;
- Complete credentialing and re-credentialing materials as requested by Peach State Health Plan; and
- Maintain an office that meets all standards of professional practice.

## Member Treatment Requirements

### **Providers are required to:**

- Offer integrated behavioral healthcare by sending initial and quarterly (or more frequently if clinically indicated) summary reports of a Member's behavioral health status to the PCP, with the Member's or the Member's legal guardian's consent

- Refer members with known or suspected physical health problems or disorders to the member's PCP for examination and treatment;
- Only provide physical health services if such services are within the scope of the clinical licensure;
- All providers must ensure members that are discharging from an inpatient psychiatric or crisis stabilization unit (CSU) acute care are scheduled for outpatient follow-up and/or continuing treatment prior to discharge. The outpatient appointment must be set before discharge and must occur within seven (7) days of the member's discharge from an inpatient psychiatric setting or crisis stabilization unit;
- Contact members who have missed appointments within twenty-four (24) hours to reschedule;
- Ensure all members receive effective, understandable and respectful treatment provided in a manner compatible with their cultural health beliefs and practices and preferred language;
- Make referrals or admissions of members for covered behavioral health services only to other participating healthcare practitioners/providers (those that participate in the Peach State Health Plan or Peach State Health Plan provider network), except as the need for emergency care may require, or where Peach State Health Plan specifically authorizes the referral, or as otherwise required by law;
- Comply with all state and federal requirements governing emergency, screening and post-stabilization services; and
- Provide member's clinical information to other practitioners/providers treating the member and supporting agencies providing services, as necessary to ensure proper coordination and treatment of members who express suicidal or homicidal ideation or intent, consistent with state law
- Hospital provider must submit a discharge summary to Peach State Health Plan and the member's PCP within 24 hours of discharge.
- Have a crisis plan for each member being treated and those being seen for crisis management and avoidance of unnecessary emergency room visits
- Ensure members that are discharging from an emergency room are scheduled for outpatient follow-up and/or continuing treatment after discharge. The outpatient appointment must be set the day after discharge and must occur within seven (7) days of the member's discharge from an emergency room.
- Access for co-occurring disorders and provide treatment or a referral to treatment members identified to have a substance use disorder.
- Provide or refer to Youth, Adult and Family Peer Support Services when clinically indicated or medically necessary.
- Encourage skills buildings, long term independence and self-care in the treatment planning and services provided.

## Georgia Pathways to Coverage Program

Georgia Pathways to Coverage (*Georgia Pathways*) Program is a new program that will give low-income Georgians who are working or preparing for work and who are not eligible for Medicaid today a new opportunity to gain access to healthcare coverage through Medicaid.

Georgia residents can apply for the program starting on July 1, 2023. Applicants can apply for Georgia Pathways online, telephonically or In-person, or by mailing in a paper application. Certain criteria must be met for applicants to qualify for the Georgia Pathways.

Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a Georgia resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Be ineligible for any other category of Medicaid
- Be between the ages of 19 and 64

- Be low-income, with a household income up to 100%. Visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines> for Federal Poverty Level information
- Not be incarcerated
- Prove that they are doing at least 80 hours of Qualifying Activities per month

Georgia Pathways members are eligible to receive the same State Plan benefits as other Medicaid groups. Coverage would start the first day of the following month after approval. No copay payments are required for Georgia Pathways members.

- Georgia Pathways does not cover non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) except for members ages 19-20 who are receiving Early Period Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) as required by Medicaid for children under 21.

Georgia Pathways covers many of the same medical services as Medicaid, including:

<b>Medical Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor Office visits</li> <li>• Medication</li> <li>• Labs</li> <li>• X-rays</li> <li>• In- Home care</li> <li>• Hospital admission</li> <li>• Medical supplies</li> </ul>	<b>Vision Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye exams</li> <li>• Eyeglasses</li> </ul>	<b>Behavioral Health Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatient mental health/alcohol and substance abuse services</li> <li>• Outpatient mental health/alcohol and substance abuse services</li> </ul>
<b>Dental Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral Exams</li> <li>• X-rays</li> <li>• Simple tooth removal</li> </ul>		

Members eligible for Georgia Pathways will be auto assigned into a CMO using the State’s existing assignment methodology. To receive coverage, applicants must meet 80 hours of Qualifying Activities each month. If they have a disability, they can request a Reasonable Modification for a referral to GVRA or the option for extra time to complete their 80 hours.

Benefits at no extra cost	
<b>Extra assistance for complex health conditions through Care &amp; Disease Management Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Personalized care to help manage complex health conditions.</li> <li>» Coordination of care with programs and services in the community.</li> </ul>	<b>Member Services representatives to help answer member questions (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Call 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-255-0056) to ask about member benefits, help with services and other assistance.</li> </ul>
<b>24/7 Nurse Advice Line for advice about health-related problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Call 1-800-704-1484 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-255-0056) to speak to a medical professional anytime, day or night.</li> </ul>	<b>The Mental Health Crisis line is available for immediate assistance for those with a behavioral health related problem.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Call 1-800-704-1484, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This crisis line is FREE and provides bilingual help.</li> </ul>

Applicants who think they qualify for Georgia Pathways but do not get approved, can appeal the decision. If a decision results in the suspension or termination of their Georgia Pathways coverage, members can appeal that too. The decision letter will include information on how to appeal a decision and who to contact if members have questions about appealing a decision.

Georgia Pathways does not cover past medical bills that were received before a member was covered by Georgia Pathways. However, there are times when a past bill may be covered for current Georgia Pathways enrollees.

- If members mail a proof of Qualifying Activities by the 17th of the month, then they are still covered by Georgia Pathways because they submitted their proof on time.
- Members can appeal a coverage decision or request a hearing to review the decision. If members are already enrolled in Georgia Pathways, then they can request that their coverage continue during their appeal and hearing.

Visit the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) site, <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/>, to login to the secure portal using your provider ID number and personal identification pin to verify a member's eligibility as well as to access Medicaid information, resources, claims, and more.

For more information about Member Rights and Responsibilities, please reference pages 105-108 and for more information about General Billing Information & Guidelines, please reference pages 76-98 of the provider manual.

\*For additional information regarding Georgia Pathways, visit [dch.georgia.gov/georgiapathways](http://dch.georgia.gov/georgiapathways)

## Planning for Healthy Babies Waiver Program

The Planning for Healthy Babies Program (P4HB) is an 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver that expands the provision of family planning services to uninsured women, ages 18 through 44, who have family income at or below 211 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL) and who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In addition, the Planning for Healthy Babies program provides Inter-pregnancy Care (IPC) services to women who meet the same eligibility requirements above and who deliver a very low birth-weight (VLBW) infant (less than 3 pounds and 5 ounces).

### Eligibility for P4HB Program

**The following eligibility criteria must be met for participation in the P4HB Program:**

- Be a US citizen or person with qualified proof of citizenship.
- Be a woman between the ages of 18 and 44.
- Be a Georgia resident.
- Not be eligible for any other Medicaid program or managed care program.
- Meet family gross income requirements of no more than 211% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Losing Medicaid pregnancy coverage at the conclusion of 1 year postpartum who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Meet the above requirements and have delivered a VLBW baby (less than 3 pounds and 5 ounces) \*within the last 3 years. These women qualify for the IPC program.

### Components of the P4HB program

**There are three components that women who qualify for the waiver are eligible to participate in:**

- **Family Planning Only** which covers family planning and family planning related services only for eligible participants for the duration of the waiver.
- **Inter-pregnancy Care** which covers family planning and family planning related services, limited primary care and dental services, care management and resource mother support for women who have delivered a VLBW baby.
- **Resource Mother Outreach** which offers a specially trained resource mother support and care management to any women in other Medicaid plans who has delivered a VLBW baby.

**Covered Services include:**

Services	Notes/Limitations
<p><b>Family planning initial or annual exams (one per year)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive family planning visit.</li> <li>• Laboratory tests performed during an initial family planning visit for contraception include: a Pap smear, screening tests for sexually transmitted infections (STI's)/ sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), blood counts, and pregnancy test. Additional screening tests may be performed depending on the method of contraception desired and the protocol established by the clinic, program, or provider.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contraceptive services and supplies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures or services clearly provided or performed for the primary purpose of family planning.</li> <li>• contraceptive initiation</li> <li>• periodic or inter-periodic contraceptive management.</li> <li>• patient education and counseling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Follow up family planning or family planning related service visits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order for a follow-up family planning visit to be reimbursed, it must carry a primary diagnosis or a modifier that specifically identifies it as a family. planning service. Services provided must be those that are generally performed as part of, or as follow- up to, a family planning service for contraception.</li> </ul> <p>Such services are provided because a “family planning-related” problem was identified/ diagnosed during a routine/periodic family planning visit. Office visits, laboratory tests, and certain other procedures must also carry a primary diagnosis or modifier that specifically identifies them as a family planning service. During follow up visits, providers can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide follow-up on abnormal testing. For example:</li> <li>• Rescreen for an abnormal pap smear.</li> <li>• Screen or rescreen for a STD.</li> <li>• Perform colposcopy (and procedures done with/during a colposcopy).</li> <li>• Perform a LEEP procedure.</li> <li>• Provide treatment/drugs for STI's, except for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, when the STD's/STI's were identified/diagnosed during the routine/periodic family planning visit.</li> <li>• Provide treatment/drugs for vaginal infections/disorders, other lower genital tract and genital skin infections/disorders, and urinary tract infections, when these conditions were identified/diagnosed during the routine/periodic family planning visit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Treatment of major complications related to family planning services such as:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment of a perforated uterus due to an intrauterine device insertion.</li> <li>• Treatment of severe menstrual bleeding caused by a Depo-Provera; injection requiring a dilation and curettage.</li> <li>• Treatment of surgical or anesthesia-related complications during a sterilization procedure.</li> </ul>

Services	Notes/Limitations
<b>Tubal Ligation (Sterilization)</b>	<p>Sterilization procedures covered under the P4HB Program must meet the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The P4HB Participant is at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time consent is obtained;</li> <li>• The Participant is mentally competent;</li> <li>• The Participant voluntarily gives informed consent in accordance with the State Policies and Procedures for Family Planning Clinic Services. This includes the completion of all applicable documentation:</li> <li>• At least thirty (30) Calendar Days, but not more than one hundred and eighty (180) Calendar Days, have passed between the date of informed consent and the date of sterilization.</li> <li>• An interpreter is provided when language barriers exist. Arrangements are to be made to effectively communicate the required information to a P4HB Participant who is visually impaired, hearing impaired or otherwise disabled; and</li> <li>• The Participant is not institutionalized in a correctional facility, mental hospital or other rehabilitative facility.</li> <li>• A hysterectomy is not considered a covered service for P4HB Participants.</li> <li>• Abortions or abortion-related services are not considered a covered service for Demonstration Participants.</li> </ul>
<b>Multi-Vitamins with Folic Acid/ Folic Acid Supplements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers should routinely prescribe multi vitamins with folic acid or folic acid supplements only to all women of reproductive age.</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis B and Tetanus Diphtheria vaccines for P4HB Participants aged 18, 19 and 20. Participants aged 18 should receive vaccines through the VFC program's vaccine stock.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the family planning provider is unable to provide these vaccines then the women should be referred to a network provider who can administer the vaccine.</li> </ul>
<b>P4HB Participant Counseling and referrals to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social services, e.g. WIC.</li> <li>• Primary health care providers. Primary care services are not offered as part of the family planning visit. These primary care services are not covered for enrollees who are not in the IPC program. Women should be referred for conditions identified during a family planning visit to a primary health care provider. Each CMO is required to maintain an up-to-date list of available Providers affiliated with the Georgia Primary Care Association and other primary care Providers serving the uninsured and underinsured populations who are available to provide primary care services to P4HB Participants.</li> </ul>

## Inter-pregnancy care (P4HB program)

In addition to the family planning and family planning-related services described above, women who are enrolled in the IPC component of the Program will be eligible for the benefits described in the table below.

Services	Notes/Limitations
<b>Primary care</b>	PCP coordinates care for the participant and makes referrals to CMO and non-CMO specialty care as needed.
<b>Management and treatment of chronic diseases</b>	By Primary Care Provider.
<b>Substance abuse treatment (detoxification and intensive outpatient rehabilitation)</b>	Participants can self-refer to an in-network provider for an initial mental health or substance abuse visit but prior authorization may be required for subsequent visits. Participants may also receive detoxification and intensive outpatient rehabilitation services only.
<b>Care management/ Resource Mother Outreach</b>	See below.
<b>Limited Dental</b>	For a list of benefits contact Member Services.
<b>Prescription Drugs (non-family planning)</b>	Medications to treat chronic conditions.
<b>Non-Emergency Medical Transportation</b>	For a list of benefits contact Member Services.

## Resource Mother Outreach (P4HB program)

Women served under the IPC component of the P4HB Program and women enrolled in other Medicaid programs who have delivered a VLBW baby will have access to a Resource Mother. **Peach State Health Plan employs or contracts with Resource Mothers who assist nurse care managers with the following:**

- Increasing P4HB Participants' adoption of healthy behaviors such as healthy eating choices and smoking cessation;
- Supporting P4HB Participants' compliance with primary care medical appointments, including assisting with arranging non-emergency medical transportation;
- Assisting mothers of VLBW babies to obtain regular preventive health visits and appropriate immunizations for their child;
- Supporting P4HB Participants' compliance with medications to treat chronic health conditions;
- Assisting with coordination of social services support; and,
- Assisting with linking mothers to community resources such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Providers are encouraged to refer women to the P4HB Program who have delivered a VLBW infant to determine if they would be eligible to participate in the Inter-pregnancy Care or Resource Mother Outreach program components. Providers will be required to complete the necessary forms confirming that the woman delivered a VLBW baby.

## Applying for the P4HB Program

Members can apply for the P4HB program either online using the website listed or by obtaining and submitting an application and required documents to the address and fax number below: Online apply at [www.gateway.ga.gov](http://www.gateway.ga.gov).

## Obtain an application at the local:

- Public Health Departments
- Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
- Or request to have one mailed directly to you by calling 1-877-423-4746
- Right From The Start Medical Assistance Group(RSM)
- Applications are also available at Federally Qualified Health Center
- For more information, please call 1-877-423-4746

## Completed applications and required documents should be faxed to:

- Fax: 912-632-0389
- Or mailed to:  
Division of Family and Children Services  
Customer Contact Center  
P.O. Box 4190  
Albany, GA 31706

## Additional Information

Providers seeking additional information may use the following additional resources:

- [www.medicaid.georgia.gov/planning-healthy-babies](http://www.medicaid.georgia.gov/planning-healthy-babies)
- Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
- Local Public Health departments
- Peach State Health Plan website

## In-Office Lab Testing

Effective September 1, 2018, the lab services below can be performed and reimbursed in an office setting

**All other office-based lab services must be submitted through our contracted laboratory providers.**

CPT	Description
0202U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected
80305	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (eg, immunoassay); capable of being read by direct optical observation only (eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
80306	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (eg, immunoassay); read by instrument assisted direct optical observation (eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
80307	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures, by instrument chemistry analyzers (eg, utilizing immunoassay [eg, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA, IA, KIMS, RIA]), chromatography (eg, GC, HPLC), and mass spectrometry either with or without chromatography, (eg, DART, DESI, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS, LC-MS, LC-MS/MS, LDTD, MALDI, TOF) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
87811	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (i.e., visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
80324	Amphetamines; 1 or 2
80325	Amphetamines; 3 or 4

CPT	Description
80326	Amphetamines; 5 or more
80327	Anabolic steroids; 1 or 2
80328	Anabolic steroids; 3 or more
80329	Analgesics, non-opioid; 1 or 2
80330	Analgesics, non-opioid; 3-5
80331	Analgesics, non-opioid; 6 or more
80335	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 1 or 2
80336	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 3-5
80337	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 6 or more
80339	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80340	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80341	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
80342	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80343	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80344	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
80345	Barbiturates
80346	Benzodiazepines; 1-12
80347	Benzodiazepines; 13 or more
80348	Buprenorphine
80353	Cocaine
80358	Methadone
80361	Opiates, 1 or more
80362	Opioids and opiate analogs; 1 or 2
80363	Opioids and Opiate analogs; 3 or 4
80364	Opioids and Opiate analogs; 5 or more
80369	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 1 or 2
80370	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 3 or more
80375	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 1-3
83992	Phencyclidine (PCP)
81000	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; non-automated, with microscopy
81001	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; automated, with microscopy
81002	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; non-automated, without microscopy
81003	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; automated, without microscopy
81005	Urinalysis; qualitative or semiquantitative, except immunoassays

CPT	Description
81015	Urinalysis; microscopic only
81025	Urine pregnancy test, by visual color comparison methods
82043	Albumin; urine, microalbumin, quantitative
82044	82044Albumin; urine, microalbumin, semiquantitative (eg, reagent strip assay)
82247	Bilirubin; total
82270	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (eg, guaiac), qualitative; feces, consecutive collected specimens with single determination, for colorectal neoplasm screening (ie, patient was provided 3 cards or single triple card for consecutive collection)
82271	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (eg, guaiac), qualitative; other sources
82272	Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (eg, guaiac), qualitative, feces, 1-3 simultaneous determinations, performed for other than colorectal neoplasm screening
82465	Cholesterol, serum or whole blood, total
82565	Creatinine; blood
82731	Fetal fibronectin, cervicovaginal secretions, semi-quantitative
82947	Glucose; quantitative, blood (except reagent strip)
82948	Glucose; blood, reagent strip
82950	Glucose; post glucose dose (includes glucose)
82951	Glucose; tolerance test (GTT), 3 specimens (includes glucose)
82952	Glucose; tolerance test, each additional beyond 3 specimens (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
82962	Glucose, blood by glucose monitoring device(s) cleared by the FDA specifically for home use
83036	Hemoglobin; glycosylated (A1C)
83037	Hemoglobin; glycosylated (A1C) by device cleared by FDA for home use
83655	Lead
83986	pH; body fluid, not otherwise specified
84132	Potassium; serum, plasma or whole blood
84703	Gonadotropin, chorionic (hCG); qualitative
85013	Blood count; spun microhematocrit
85014	Blood count; hematocrit (Hct)
85018	Blood count; hemoglobin (Hgb)
85025	Blood count; complete (CBC), automated (Hgb, Hct, RBC, WBC and platelet count) and automated differential WBC count
85027	Blood count; complete (CBC), automated (Hgb, Hct, RBC, WBC and platelet count)
85049	Blood count; platelet, automated
85610	Prothrombin time
85651	Sedimentation rate, erythrocyte; non-automated
86308	Heterophile antibodies; screening
86318	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies) and to be a parent to 86328
86328	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
86408	Neutralizing antibody, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19); screen
86409	Neutralizing antibody, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19); Titer

CPT	Description
86580	Skin test; tuberculosis, intradermal
86756	Antibody; respiratory syncytial virus
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
87070	Culture, bacterial; any other source except urine, blood or stool, aerobic, with isolation and presumptive identification of isolates
87172	Pinworm exam (eg, cellophane tape prep)
87205	Smear, primary source with interpretation; Gram or Giemsa stain for bacteria, fungi, or cell types
87210	Smear, primary source with interpretation; wet mount for infectious agents (e.g., saline, India ink, KOH preps)
87220	Tissue examination by KOH slide of samples from skin, hair, or nails for fungi or ectoparasite ova or mites (e.g., scabies)
87301	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; adenovirus enteric types 40/41
87400	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; Influenza, A or B, each
87426	Severe acute respiratory syndromecoronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19])
87428	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B
87430	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; Streptococcus, group A
87490	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, direct probe technique
87491	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, amplified probe technique
87492	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, quantification
87635	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique
87800	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) multiple organisms; direct probe(s) technique
87802	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Streptococcus, group B
87803	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Clostridium difficile toxin A
87804	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Influenza
87806	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; HIV-1 antigen(s), with HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies
87807	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; respiratory syncytial virus
87808	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Trichomonas vaginalis
87880	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Streptococcus, group A
87905	Infectious agent enzymatic activity other than virus (eg, sialidase activity in vaginal fluid)

CPT	Description
G0480	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0481	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0659	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including but not limited to GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem), excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase), performed without method or drug-specific calibration, without matrix-matched quality control material, or without use of stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standard(s) for each drug, drug metabolite or drug class per specimen; qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, any number of drug classes
Q0111	Wet mounts, including preparations of vaginal, cervical or skin specimens
Q0112	All potassium hydroxide (koh) preparations
U0001	2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel should be used when specimens are sent to the CDC and CDC-approved local/state health department laboratories
U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC should be used when specimens are sent to commercial laboratories, e.g. Quest or LabCorp, and not to the CDC or CDC-approved local/state health department laboratories.

**Note:** All other office-based lab services must be submitted through our contracted laboratory providers. Specialty lab services will continue to be submitted through Doctors Laboratory, Genzyme Genetics, Finan Dermatopathology, Atlanta Dermatology and Pathology and Chatham County Board of Health Lab.

**Note:** Any service rendered by a non-contracted laboratory provider requires that the ordering provider obtain prior authorization for the service.

## PCP Availability and Accessibility

The availability of our practitioner network is essential to member care and treatment outcomes. We evaluate the performance in meeting these standards and appreciate providers working with us to accommodate our members' clinical needs. In order to ensure appropriate care, we have adopted the geographic accessibility standards below.

Thank you for complying with this assessment and providing the highest quality of care for our members. Practitioner performance data may be used by the plan for the development of quality improvement activities.

Each participating physician shall maintain sufficient facilities and personnel to provide covered physician services and shall ensure that such services are available as needed twenty-four (24) hours a day, 365 days a year. The organization requires the hours of operation that practitioners offer to Medicaid Members to be no less than those offered to commercial members. Peach State Health Plan encourages PCPs to offer services after hours and on the weekends. Peach State Health Plan will monitor physicians' offices through scheduled and un-scheduled visits through our Provider Relations staff.

Provider Type	Urban	Rural
<b>PCPs*</b>	Two (2) within eight (8)miles	Two (2) within fifteen (15) miles
<b>Pediatricians</b>	Two (2) within eight (8)miles	Two (2) within fifteen (15) miles
<b>Obstetric Providers</b>	Two (2) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	Two within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Specialists</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>General Dental Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Dental Subspecialty Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Hospitals</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Mental Health Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Pharmacies</b>	One (1) twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week within fifteen (15) minutes or fifteen (15) miles	One (1) twenty-four (24) hours a day (or has an afterhours emergency phone number and pharmacist on call), seven (7) days a week within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles
<b>Therapy: (Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech Therapists)</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Vision Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles	One within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles
<b>Outpatient Behavioral Health Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes	One within forty-five (45) minutes
<b>Inpatient Behavioral Health Providers</b>	One (1) within thirty (30) minutes	One within forty-five (45) minutes

## PCP Coverage

The participating physician shall arrange for coverage with a physician who must have executed a contractual agreement with Peach State Health Plan. If the participating physician is capitated for professional services, compensation for the covering physician is considered to be included in the capitation payment. If the participating physician is on a fee-for-service agreement with Peach State Health Plan, the covering physician is compensated in accordance with the fee schedule in his/her agreement. Non-participating providers will be reviewed for medical necessity in the event a specialist is not in-network.

## Behavioral Health Access

Peach State Health Plan Medicaid members may access behavioral health and substance use disorder services through several mechanisms. Members do not need a referral from their primary care provider (PCP) to access covered behavioral health or substance abuse services. Members, caregivers or medical consenters may self-refer for behavioral health services. Assessments for behavioral health services do not require an authorization or approval from Peach State Health Plan.

Network providers must ensure that services provided are available on a basis of twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, as the nature of the member’s behavioral health condition dictates. Network providers will offer hours of operation that are no less than the hours of operation offered to commercial insurance enrollees, and shall ensure members with disabilities are afforded access to care by ensuring physical and communication barriers do not inhibit members from accessing services. **Behavioral Health Providers are required to meet the following accessibility standards:**

**The provider network may consist of the following types of providers:**

- Routine Care: within 10 business days
- Care for non-threatening emergency: within 6 hours
- Urgent Care: within 48 hours
- Follow-up routine care: within 10 business days
- Discharge (from hospital/acute care): within seven (7) days of discharge

Member and Providers can access care at any time by calling the Peach State’s Behavioral Health Crisis Line at 1-877-655-3318 or by calling the Health Plans Nurse Advise Line at 1-800-704-1484. Both lines are available to members and providers 24 hours per day 365 days per week.

## Appointment Availability Standards

Provider Type	Waiting Time
PCPs - Routine/Regular visit (Adult and Pediatric)	Not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days
PCPs - Sick/Urgent (Adult)	Not to exceed twenty-four (24) clock hours
PCPs - Sick/Urgent (Pediatric)	Not to exceed twenty-four (24) clock hours
PCPs – initial Pediatric health/screening check	Not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days of eligibility or within twenty-four (24) hours of birth (in the hospital) for all newborns
OB (Maternity care) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant Women - Initial visit</li> <li>• First Trimester</li> <li>• Second Trimester</li> <li>• Third Trimester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days from enrollment</li> <li>• Not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days</li> <li>• Not to exceed seven (7) calendar days</li> <li>• Not to exceed three (3) business days</li> </ul>

Provider Type	Waiting Time
Specialists	Not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days
Therapy: Physical, Occupational, Speech, and Aquatic Therapists and Aquatic Therapists	Not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days
Vision	Not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days
Dental Providers Routine visit-(Delegated Vendor)	Not to exceed twenty-one (21) calendar days
Dental Providers-Urgent visit-(Delegated Vendor)	Not to exceed forty-eight (48) clock hours
Elective Hospitalizations	Thirty (30) calendar days
Mental Health Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care is available for a non-life-threatening appointment</li> <li>Urgent care appointment available for a patient</li> <li>Initial visit for routine care</li> <li>Follow-up routine Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within six (6) hours</li> <li>Within forty-eight (48) hours</li> <li>Within ten (10) business days</li> <li>Within ten (10) business days</li> </ul>
Urgent Care provider	Not to exceed twenty-four (24)clock hours
Emergency provider	Immediately (twenty-four (24) clock hours a day/seven (7) days a week) without prior authorization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Volume specialist: Ob/ Gyn (excludes Ob/ Maternity care visit requirement)</li> <li>Urgent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days</li> <li>Within seventy-two (72) hours</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Impact specialist: Oncology</li> <li>Urgent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days</li> <li>Within seventy-two (72) hours</li> </ul>

The participating physician shall provide adequate capacity for initial visits for pregnant women within fourteen (14) calendar days and visits for EPSDT eligible children within ninety (90) calendar days of the members' enrollment in Peach State Health Plan.

Peach State Health Plan will monitor appointment and after-hours availability on an on-going basis through its Quality Improvement Program.

## Maximum Office Wait Time Standards

Scheduled Appointments	Waiting times shall not exceed 60 minutes. After 30 minutes, patient must be given an update on waiting time with an option of waiting or rescheduling appointment.
Walk-In Appointments	Waiting time shall not exceed 90 minutes. After 45 minutes, patient must be given an update on waiting time with an option of waiting or rescheduling appointment.

## Provider Response Time For After Hour Calls

- Urgent Calls: Shall not exceed 20 minutes.
- Other Calls: Shall not exceed one hour.

## Telephone Arrangements

**Providers are required to develop and use telephone protocol for all of the following situations:**

- Answering the members telephone inquiries on a timely basis
- Prioritizing appointments.

- Scheduling a series of appointments and follow-up appointments as needed by a member.
- Identifying and rescheduling broken and no-show appointments.
- Identifying special member needs while scheduling an appointment (e.g., wheelchair and interpretive linguistic needs, or for non-compliant individuals or those people with cognitive impairments).
- Response time for telephone call-back waiting times: same day for non-symptomatic concerns; crisis situations within fifteen (15) minutes.
- Scheduling continuous availability and accessibility of professional, allied, and supportive personnel to provide covered services within normal working hours; Protocols shall be in place to provide coverage in the event of a provider's absence.
- After-hour calls should be documented in a written format in either an after-hour call log or some other method, and then transferred to the member's medical record.
- An Auto Attendant/Answering system that advises the member that urgent calls will be returned within 20 minutes and all other calls will be returned within one hour and the option to page the physician; or
- A live attendant/Advice nurse and/or answering service that advises the member that urgent calls will be returned within 20 minutes and all other calls will be returned within one hour and the option to page the physician.

*Note: If after-hour urgent care or emergent care is needed, the PCP or his/her designee should contact the urgent care center or emergency department in order to notify the facility. Notification is not required prior to member receiving urgent or emergent care.*

*Peach State Health Plan will monitor appointment and after-hours availability on an on-going basis through its Quality Improvement Program.*

## Self-Referrals

### **The following services do not require PCP authorization or referral:**

- Prescription drugs, including certain prescribed over-the-counter drugs.
- Emergency services including emergency ambulance transportation.
- OB/GYN Services, including those of a Certified Nurse Midwife.
- GYN Services, including those of a Certified Nurse Midwife.
- Women's health specialist covered services provided by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Certified Nurse Practitioner.
- Mental Health and Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse services for the first six standard outpatient sessions per member per year.
- Family Planning Services and supplies from a qualified family planning provider.
- Routine Dental Services.
- Non-surgical routine vision care with Optometrist and Ophthalmologists.
- Podiatry Services as defined in the benefits section.
- HIV Testing
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Services

Except for emergency and family planning services, the above services must be obtained through network providers or prior authorized out-of-network providers.

## Referrals

It is Peach State Health Plan's preference that the PCP coordinates healthcare services. However, members are allowed to self-refer for certain services (see above). PCPs are encouraged to refer a member when medically necessary care is needed that is beyond the scope of the PCP. Those referrals which require authorization by the plan can be located on the [pshp.com](https://pshp.com) website under the online Pre-Auth Tool. For out-of-network referrals see information described herein. A provider is also required to notify Peach State Health Plan promptly when they are rendering prenatal care to a Peach State Health Plan member.

### **If the PCP is capitated, referrals from a capitated PCP to another PCP will not be authorized or covered except for the following circumstances:**

- Members who are auto-assigned to another PCP in the third trimester of their pregnancy when they become eligible for services under Peach State Health Plan (Medicaid members who are pregnant and not in the third trimester are subject to plan review and approval)
- Members having chronic medical conditions with ongoing healthcare needs that require continuity of care transition; Examples include, but not limited to, hemophilia, HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia, neoplasm, and organ transplant.
- Members who have other insurance coverage in which their primary provider is different from their Peach State Health Plan PCP.
- No paper referral is required for a referral or prior-authorization.
- Members who have moved thirty (30) miles or more from their previous residence, until a new PCP can be assigned.

To verify if an authorization is necessary visit the Peach State Health Plan website and utilize the online Pre-Auth Tool.

### **To obtain a prior authorization, enter the request on the:**

*Department of Community Health Centralized Prior Authorization Portal: [mmis.georgia.gov](https://mmis.georgia.gov)*

*Authorization may also be submitted using the Peach State Health Plan Provider Portal, for applicable services.*

## Telemedicine

Peach State Health Plan has a relationship with Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth (GPT). The Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth (GPT) works to improve the availability and provision of specialized health care services in rural and underserved parts of Georgia through the use of telemedicine, health information exchange and TeleHealth technologies. The program's goal is to enable all rural Georgians to access specialty care within 30 mile of their homes.

The partnership provides Peach State Health Plan members and providers with access to one of the most comprehensive telemedicine networks in the nation, and enhances the level of and access to care for the significant rural populations that Peach State Health Plan serves throughout the state of Georgia. This collaborative relationship with one of the leading TeleHealth coordinators in the nation provides all Peach State Health Plan members with access to more than 40 specialties that can be delivered via telemedicine.

The Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth has become one of the most robust, comprehensive telemedicine networks in the nation. Recent expansion has included nursing homes, school-based clinics, jails, clinics and emergency rooms. The network now has more than 350 partners and locations and more than 175 specialists and health care providers. Providing access to health care via telemedicine has proven to cut costs on travel, work time and provides earlier access to care therefore preventing the large costs of untreated health care problems.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gatelehealth.org>. For additional information please contact Peach State Health Plan directly at 1-866-874-0633 from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. For scheduling assistance please contact GPT at 1-866-754-4325.

## EPSDT

The EPSDT program is designed to ensure that children receive early detection and care, so that health problems are averted or diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The Program is designed to provide a comprehensive array of prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services for infants, children and adolescents. The EPSDT benefit is available to Peach State Health Plan Medicaid members under age 21 years old and PeachCare for Kids children less than 19 years old.

EPSDT preventive (well child) visits must be provided at recommended intervals according to the AAP and Bright Futures “Recommendations for Pediatric Health Care” Periodicity Schedule (Bright Futures schedule). All components of exams must be documented and included in the medical record of each EPSDT eligible member. PCPs are also required to provide immunizations according to the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines.

## Member Panel Capacity

All PCPs reserve the right to state the number of members they are willing to accept into their practice. Member assignment is based on the member’s choice and auto assignment, therefore, Peach State Health Plan **DOES NOT** guarantee that any provider will receive a set number of members.

If a PCP does declare a specific capacity for his/her practice and wants to make a change to that capacity, the PCP must contact the Peach State Provider Service Department at 1-866-874-0633. A PCP shall not refuse to treat members as long as the physician has not reached their requested panel size.

Provider shall notify Peach State Health Plan at least forty-five (45) days in advance of his or her inability to accept additional Medicaid covered persons under Peach State Health Plan agreements. Peach State Health Plan prohibits all providers from intentionally segregating members from fair treatment and covered services provided to other non-Medicaid members.

## Provider Termination

Providers should refer to their Peach State Health Plan contract for specific information about terminating from Peach State Health Plan.

## Other PCP Responsibilities to Members

- Educate members on how to maintain healthy lifestyles and prevent serious illness.
- Provide culturally competent care.
- Provide follow up on emergency care.
- Maintain confidentiality of medical information.
- Obtain authorizations for all inpatient and selected outpatient services as listed on the current Prior Authorization List, except for emergency services up to the point of stabilization.

Peach State Health Plan providers should refer to their contract for complete information regarding PCP obligation and mode of reimbursement. PCPs should accept Members for treatment, unless they have a full panel and are accepting no new Georgia Families or commercial patients.

## Specialist Responsibilities

Selected specialty services require a formal referral from the PCP. The specialist may order diagnostic tests without PCP involvement by following Peach State Health Plan's referral guidelines. The specialist must abide by the prior authorization requirements when ordering diagnostic tests. However, the specialist may not refer to other specialists or admit to the hospital without the approval of a PCP, except in a true emergency situation. All non-emergency inpatient admissions require prior authorization from Peach State Health Plan.

### The specialist provider must:

- Maintain contact with the PCP.
- Obtain referral or authorization from the member's PCP and/or Peach State Health Plan Medical Management Department as needed before providing services.
- Coordinate the member's care with the PCP.
- Provide the PCP with consult reports and other appropriate records within five (5) business days.
- Be available for or provide on-call coverage through another source twenty-four (24) hours a day for management of member care.
- Maintain the confidentiality of medical information.

Peach State Health Plan providers should refer to their contract for complete information regarding providers' obligations and mode of reimbursement.

## Hospital Responsibilities

Peach State Health Plan utilizes a network of hospitals to provide services to Peach State Health Plan members.

### Hospitals must:

- Notify Peach State Health Plan's Medical Management Department of all inpatient hospital admissions by the next business day of the admission with clinical information.
- Ensure the EPSDT initial newborn preventive visit occurs in the hospital/birthing center. The newborn preventive visit are completed within 24 hours after birth and prior to discharge of the infant.
- Outpatient observation stays will not require notification. Outpatient observation stays over 48 hours will require retrospective medical record review for payment consideration.
- Submit notifications of newborn deliveries to the Department of Community Health Centralized Prior Authorization Portal at [www.mmis.georgia.gov](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov):
  - Member name and Medicaid number (mother).
  - Newborn name and Medicaid number ( In the event, a name has not been selected at the time of discharge, please submit with the newborn's gender: Baby boy or Baby girl and Last Name (ex. Baby boy Smith).
  - Facility name, Physician name.
  - Admit date, delivery date, type of delivery.
  - Gender, weight, and Apgar score of the newborn, and gestational age of the newborn (if known).
- A Critical Access Hospital (CAH) must provide notice to Peach State Health Plan and the Department of Community Health (DCH) of any alleged breaches in its contract by the health plan.

Peach State Health Plan hospitals should refer to their contract for complete information regarding the hospitals' obligations and mode of reimbursement.

## Hospital Statistical Reports (HS&R)

Effective July 1, 2008, HS&Rs will be generated by Peach State Health Plan and made available within thirty (30) days of receipt of a written request from the provider. HS&R requests may be submitted using one of two methods: a letter or an email. Effective February 15, 2010, you must adhere to the process outlined below when requesting HS&R reports.

- All requests for production of HS&R reports must be submitted via e-mail to the designated e-mail box or via certified mail to the address below.
- Please note: Any request submitted directly to an individual's attention will be returned to the requestor via email with instructions on how to submit the request via one of the methods identified below.
- **Submit your e-mail request to:**
  - [HSRrequest@centene.com](mailto:HSRrequest@centene.com)
  - SUBJECT: Request for HS&R Report
- **Submit your written request via Certified mail to:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
VP of Compliance  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
ATTN: Request for HS&R Report

**Reminder:** In order to generate your reports, you must provide the following information:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. Hospital Name               | d. Hospital fiscal year or period service dates          |
| b. Hospital Tax ID Number      | e. Hospital fiscal year or period for paid through dates |
| c. Provider Medicaid ID Number | f. Contact Information - including email                 |

## Advance Directives

Peach State Health Plan is committed to ensuring that its members know of and are able to avail themselves of their rights to execute advance directives. Peach State Health Plan is equally committed to ensuring that its providers and staff are aware of and comply with their responsibilities under federal and state law regarding advance directives.

PCPs and physicians delivering care to Peach State Health Plan members must ensure adult members 18 years of age and older receive information on advance directives and are informed of their right to execute advance directives. Providers must document such information in the permanent medical record.

### **Peach State Health Plan recommends to its PCPs and physicians that:**

- The first point of contact in the PCP's office should ask if the member has executed an advance directive; the member's response should be documented in the medical record.
- If the member has executed an advance directive, the first point of contact should ask the member to bring a copy of the advance directive to the PCP's office and document this request.
- An advance directive should be included as a part of the member's medical record, including mental health directives.
- If an advance directive exists, the physician should discuss potential medical emergencies with the member and/or family member/significant other (if named in the advance directive and if available) and with the referring physician, if applicable. Discussion should be documented in the medical record.

- If an advance directive has not been executed, the first point of contact within the office should ask the member if they desire more information about advance directives. You may obtain a copy online at [www.aging.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.aging.dhr.georgia.gov).
- If the member requests further information, member advance directive education/information should be provided.
- Member Services and Community Health Services Program representatives will assist members with questions regarding advance directives; However, no employee of Peach State Health Plan may serve as witness to an advance directive, or as a member's designated agent or representative.

**If you have any questions regarding advance directives contact:**

**Provider Solutions Department**

1-866-874-0633

[www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com)

**If the member feels the advance directive is not being followed, they may file a complaint to:**

**Georgia Department of Community Health**

Healthcare Facilities Regulations

2 Martin Luther King Drive, East Tower, 17th Floor,

Atlanta, Georgia, 30334

Phone number: 404-657-5700

## Provider Assistance with Public Health Services

Peach State Health Plan is required to coordinate with public health entities regarding the provision of public health services. Providers must assist Peach State Health Plan in these efforts by:

- Complying with public health reporting requirements regarding communicable diseases and/or diseases which are preventable by immunization as defined by state law.
- Assisting in the notification or referral of any communicable disease outbreaks involving members to the local public health entity, as defined by state law.
- Referring to the local public health entity for tuberculosis contact investigation, evaluation and the preventive treatment of persons with whom the member has come into contact.
- Referring to the local public health entity for STD/HIV contact investigation, evaluation and preventive treatment of persons with whom the member has come into contact.
- Referring for Women, Infant and Children (WIC) services and information sharing as appropriate.
- Assisting in the coordination and follow-up of suspected or confirmed cases of childhood lead exposure.
- Assisting in the collection and verification of race/ethnicity and primary language data.

## Critical Incident Reporting

A Critical Incident is defined as any occurrence that is not consistent with the routine operation of a mental health/substance use disorder provider. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Injuries to members or member advocates
- Suicide/homicide attempt by a member while in treatment Death due to suicide/homicide
- Sexual battery
- Medication errors

- Member escape or elopement
- Altercations involving medical interventions
- Any other unusual incident that has high risk management implications

A Critical Incident Report should be reported to Peach State Health Plan’s Grievance and Appeals department. Please contact us at 866-874-0633 to start the process.

## Additional Reporting Requirements

Peach State Health Plan in accordance with its contract with DCH must report the existence of certain information regarding its membership. For example, if a member is involved in an accident or becomes injured, this information should be shared with us. This includes any incidents that occur prior to a member’s coverage with Peach State Health Plan. To report this type of information, please call us at 1-866-874-0633. Please be prepared to supply as many details as possible including the date and the cause of the accident, the injuries sustained by a member and whether or not any legal proceedings have been initiated. In addition, you must immediately report the death of a Peach State Health Plan member.

The provider shall notify Peach State Health Plan of any member who is an expectant mother at least ninety (90) calendar days prior to the expected date of delivery. In the event an expectant mother does not enroll in Peach State Health Plan until she is already within ninety (90) calendar days of her expected due date, the provider shall notify Peach State Health Plan immediately by contacting the OB Care Management department at 1-800-504-8573.

## Cultural Competency Overview

Cultural competency within the Peach State Health Plan Network is defined as **“A set of interpersonal skills that allow individuals to increase their understanding, appreciation, acceptance, and respect for cultural differences and similarities within, among and between groups and the sensitivity to know how these differences influence relationships with members”**.

Peach State Health Plan is committed to the development, strengthening and sustaining of healthy provider/member relationships. Members are entitled to dignified, appropriate and quality care. When healthcare services are delivered without regard for cultural differences, members are at risk for sub-optimal care. Members may be unable or unwilling to communicate their healthcare needs in an insensitive environment, reducing effectiveness of the entire healthcare process.

Peach State Health Plan as part of its credentialing and site visit process will evaluate the cultural competency level of its network providers and provide access to training and tool kits to assist provider’s in developing culturally competent and culturally proficient practices.

Peach State Health Plan supports resources which include topics of health equity, including cultural competence, bias, diversity, and inclusion. Local, state, and national provider organizations provide resources as well. Providers may request information and resources by contacting Peach State Health Plan at 1-866-874-0633

### Network providers must ensure the following:

- Members understand that they have access to medical interpreters, signers, and TTY services to facilitate communication without cost to them.
- Care is provided with consideration of the members’ race/ethnicity and language and its impact/influence of the members’ health or illness.
- Office staff that routinely come in contact with members have access to and participate in cultural competency training and development.

- Office staff responsible for data collection makes reasonable attempts to collect race and language specific member information. Staff will also explain race/ethnicity categories to a member so that the member is able to identify the race/ethnicity of themselves and their children.
- Treatment plans are developed and clinical guidelines are followed with consideration of the members race, country of origin, native language, social class, religion, mental or physical abilities, heritage, acculturation, age, gender, sexual orientation and other characteristics that may result in a different perspective or decision-making process.
- Office sites have posted and printed materials as English, Spanish, and all other prevalent non-English languages if required by DCH, to include posting of signage in the languages of the commonly encountered group. Office sites also have forms available in preferred language. Forms are also available in preferred format, such as large print or braille.

## Understanding the need for Culturally Competent Services

The Institute of Medicine report entitled “Unequal Treatment” along with numerous research projects reveal that when accessing the healthcare system, people of color are treated differently. Research also indicates that a person has better health outcomes when they experience culturally appropriate interactions with medical providers. The path to developing cultural competency begins with self-awareness and ends with the realization and acceptance that the goal of cultural competency is an ongoing process. Providers should note that the experience of a member begins at the front door. Failure to use culturally competent and linguistically competent practices could result in the following:

- Feelings of being insulted or treated rudely.
- Reluctance and fear of making future contact with the office.
- Confusion and misunderstanding.
- Non-compliance.
- Feelings of being uncared for, looked down on and devalued.
- Parents resisting to seek help for their children.
- Unfilled prescriptions.
- Missed appointments.
- Misdiagnosis due to lack of information sharing.
- Wasted time.
- Increased grievances or complaints.

Peach State Health Plan is committed to providing services to ensure that providers are educated about, remain aware of, and are sensitive to the linguistic needs and cultural differences of our membership. Information about cultural and linguistic competency and interpreter and translation services are included in a variety of communications media via Peach State Health Plan provider manual and newsletters, which are available on Peach State Health Plan website. Providers are also informed of their ability to request assistance with professional interpreter and translation services with the utilization of Peach State Health Plan interpreter and translation partners, and 24 Hour Nurse Advice line, to assist Peach State Health Plan membership when language or hearing impairment is a barrier to communication.

## Cultural Sensitivity Development

The road to developing a culturally competent practice begins with the recognition and acceptance of the value of meeting the needs of your patients. Peach State Health Plan is committed to helping you reach this goal. For information on Peach State Health Plan’s Cultural Competency Plan, please review the plan on our web site, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com), or request a free copy of the plan by calling 800-874-0633.

**Health Literacy:** Peach State Health Plan recommends providers screen for health literacy. Several screening tools are available to assess an individual's health literacy. The Newest Vital Sign (NVS) and the Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM) are commonly used and validated tools. The NVS uses a nutrition label and questions

to assess reading comprehension and numeracy, while the REALM assesses the ability to read common medical words. Additionally, brief self-report questionnaires like the Brief Health Literacy Screening Tool (BRIEF) can be used to quickly assess health literacy.

Here's a more detailed look at some popular tools:

#### 1. Newest Vital Sign (NVS):

- The NVS is a quick, three-minute tool that uses a nutrition label to assess reading comprehension and numeracy.
- It involves asking patients six questions about the label and is available in both English and Spanish.
- The NVS has been extensively researched and is considered a moderately effective tool for identifying patients with limited health literacy.

#### 2. Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM):

- The REALM assesses the ability to read common medical words.
- It has both a full version (REALM) and a short form (REALM-SF).
- The REALM-SF is a 7-item tool that has been validated in various settings and shows good agreement with the full REALM.

#### 3. Brief Health Literacy Screening Tool (BRIEF):

- This tool uses self-reported questions about difficulty understanding information, help needed with medical forms, and confidence in understanding health information.
- It can be integrated into clinical appointments to quickly assess health literacy.  
Add - Immunizations the website needs to be updated to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/child-adolescent-age.html>

### **Take into consideration the following as you provide care to the Peach State Health Plan Health Plan membership:**

- What are your own cultural values and identity?
- How do or can cultural differences impact your relationship with your patients?
- How much do you know about your patient's culture and language?
- Does your understanding of culture take into consideration values, communication styles, spirituality, language ability, literacy, and family definitions?
- Do you embrace differences as allies in your patients' healing process?

### **Facts about Health Disparities<sup>1</sup>**

- Persons with lower income and less education face many barriers to receiving timely care.
- Households headed by Hispanics are more likely to report difficulty in obtaining care.
- Many minorities are more likely to experience long wait times to see healthcare providers.
- African Americans experience longer waits in emergency departments and are more likely to leave without being seen.
- Many racial and ethnic minorities of lower socioeconomic position are less likely to receive timely prenatal care, more likely to have low birth weight babies and have higher infant and maternal mortality.
- Racial and ethnic low-income minority children are less likely to receive childhood immunizations.
- Patient race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status are important indicators of the effectiveness of healthcare.
- Health Disparities come at a personal and societal price.

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1 AHRQ "2003 National Healthcare Disparities Report"

# Medical Records

Peach State Health Plan providers must keep accurate and complete medical records. Such records will enable providers to render the highest quality healthcare service to members. They will also enable Peach State Health Plan to review the quality and appropriateness of the services rendered. To ensure the member's privacy, medical records should be kept in a secure location. Peach State Health Plan requires providers to maintain all records for members for at least seven (7) years.

## Required Information

Medical records means the complete, comprehensive records of a member including, but not limited to, x-rays, laboratory tests, results, examinations and notes, accessible at the site of the member's participating primary care physician or provider, that document all medical services received by the member, including inpatient, ambulatory, ancillary, and emergency care, prepared in accordance with all applicable DCH rules and regulations, and signed by the medical professional rendering the services.

### **Providers must maintain complete medical records for members in accordance with the following standards:**

- Member's name, and/or medical record number on all chart pages.
- Personal/biographical data is present (i.e. spouse, home telephone number, employer etc.).
- All entries must be legible.
- All entries must be dated and signed, or dictated by the provider rendering the care.
- Significant illnesses and/or medical conditions are documented on the problem list.
- Medication, allergies, and adverse reactions are prominently documented in a uniform location in the medical record; if no known allergies, NKA or NKDA are documented.
- An immunization record is established for pediatric members or an appropriate history is made in chart for adults.
- Evidence that preventive screening and services are offered in accordance with Peach State Health Plan's practice guidelines.
- Appropriate subjective and objective information pertinent to the member's presenting complaints is documented in the history and physical.
- Past medical history (for members seen three or more times) is easily identified and includes any serious accidents, operations and/or illnesses, discharge summaries, and ER encounters; for children and adolescents (18 years and younger) past medical history relating to prenatal care, birth, any operations and/or childhood illnesses.
- Working diagnosis is consistent with findings.
- Treatment plan is consistent with diagnosis.
- Unresolved problems from previous visits are addressed in subsequent visits.
- Laboratory and other studies ordered as appropriate.
- Abnormal lab and imaging study results have explicit notations in the record for follow up plans; all entries should be initialed by the ordering practitioner to signify review.
- Referrals to specialists and ancillary providers are documented, including follow-up of outcomes and summaries of treatment rendered elsewhere.
- Health teaching and/or counseling is documented.
- For members ten (10) years and over, appropriate notations concerning use of tobacco, alcohol and substance use (for members seen three or more times substance abuse history should be queried). Documentation of failure to keep an appointment.
- Encounter forms or notes have a notation, when indicated, regarding follow up care calls or visits. The specific time of return should be noted as weeks, months or as needed.

- Evidence that the member is not placed at inappropriate risk by a diagnostic or therapeutic problem.
- Confidentiality of member information and records are protected.
- Evidence that an advance directive has been offered to adults 18 years of age and older.
- Records are organized and easily accessible each visit and kept in a secure location.

## Medical Records Release

All medical records of members shall be confidential and shall not be released without the written authorization of covered person or a responsible covered person's legal guardian. When the release of medical records is appropriate, the extent of that release should be based upon medical necessity or on a need to know basis. Written authorization is required for the transmission of the medical record information of a current Peach State Health Plan member or former Peach State Health Plan member to any physician not connected with Peach State Health Plan.

## Medical Records Transfer for New Members

All PCPs are required to document in the member's medical record attempts to obtain old medical records for all new Peach State Health Plan members. If the member or member's guardian is unable to remember where they obtained medical care or are unable to provide an appropriate address, then this should also be noted in the medical record.

## Medical Records Audits

Medical records may be audited to determine compliance with Peach State Health Plan's standards for documentation. The coordination of care and services provided to members including over/under utilization of specialists as well as the outcome of such services may also be assessed during a medical record audit.

Peach State Health Plan's Providers shall provide copies with prior notice of such records at no expense to Peach State Health Plan and Peach State Health Plan's delegated vendor. Medical Records are used to ensure compliance with State and Federal Regulatory Requirements and accreditation guidelines.

# Medical Management

## Overview and Medical Necessity

The Peach State Health Plan Medical Management Department hours of operation are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For prior-authorizations during business hours, the provider should contact:

**Medical Management: 1-800-704-1483 • Web address: [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com)**

DCH Centralized Web Portal (CWP): [mmis.georgia.gov](http://mmis.georgia.gov)

(Effective July 1, 2017 all authorizations must be submitted via the state CWP, as applicable)

Authorizations that require review for Medical Necessity will be reviewed and screened by a Nurse.

With respect to the treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder, a service or product addressing the specific needs of that patient for the purpose of screening, preventing, diagnosing, managing, or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing the progression of an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, in a manner that is:

- In accordance with the generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care.
  - Generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care means evidence based independent standards of care and clinical practice that are generally recognized by health care providers practicing in relevant clinical specialties such as psychiatry, psychology, clinical sociology, addiction medicine and counseling, and behavioral health treatment. Valid, evidence based sources reflecting generally accepted

standards of mental health or substance use disorder care may include peer reviewed scientific studies and medical literature, consensus guidelines and recommendations of nonprofit health care provider professional associations and specialty societies, and nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines, including, but not limited to, patient placement criteria and clinical practice guidelines; guidelines or recommendations of federal government agencies; and drug labeling approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

- Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration; and
- Not primarily for the economic benefit of the insurer, purchaser, or for the convenience of the patient, treating physician, or other health care provider.

### **Medical Necessity:**

Medically Necessary services are based upon generally accepted medical practices provided in light of conditions present at the time of treatment. **Medically Necessary are services that are:**

- Required to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition.
- Appropriate and consistent with the diagnosis of the treating provider and the omission of which could adversely affect the eligible member's medical condition.
- Compatible with the standards of acceptable medical practice in the community.
- Provided in a safe, appropriate, and cost-effective setting given the nature of the diagnosis and severity of the symptoms.
- Not provided solely for the convenience of the member or the convenience of the healthcare provider or hospital.
- Not primarily custodial care unless custodial care is a covered service or benefit under the members evidence of coverage.
- There must be no other effective and more conservative or substantially less costly treatment, service and setting available.

In addition in keeping with Georgia State Medicaid Plan policies and procedures, in no instance shall Peach State Health Plan cover experimental, investigational or cosmetic procedures.

To ensure the well being of the member, authorizations may be granted outside of the benefit plan when Medically Necessary.

### **Information necessary for authorization may include but is not limited to:**

- Member's name, ID number.
- Physician's name and telephone number.
- Hospital name, if the request is for an inpatient admission or outpatient services.
- Reason for admission – primary and secondary diagnoses, surgical procedures, surgery date.
- Relevant clinical information – past/proposed treatment plan, surgical procedure, and diagnostic procedures to support the appropriateness and level of service proposed.
- Admission date or proposed date of surgery, if the request is for an inpatient admission.
- Requested length of stay, if the request is for an inpatient admission
- Discharge plans, if the request is for an inpatient admission.
- For obstetrical admissions, the date and method of delivery and information related to the newborn or neonate, Baby's Medicaid ID number.

If more information is required, the Nurse will notify the caller for the specific information needed to complete the authorization process.

**Failure to obtain authorization may result in payment denials.**

## Affirmative Statement

Peach State Health Plan does not reward or pay its group of providers, or employees for completing medical use reviews. **They do not pay its group of providers or employees to deny reviews. Use decisions are based on the following reasons:**

- Services are medically needed
- Services are covered in the member's plan

**Our systems allow us and our partners to:**

- Identify
- Track
- And monitor the care given

This process ensures that the member receives the right healthcare.

We care about your health and want you to get better. We use certain methods to make sure that you receive the best healthcare for your condition. **Those processes are listed below:**

- Watch for under and over use of services - best course of action is taken if this occurs.
- A system in place to support the study of medical use measurements
- Detect possible quality of care issues.
- Put into action intervention plans.
- And measures the success of the actions taken.
- A process to support stability of care across the health care field.

## Communication With Utilization Management (UM) Staff

Peach State Health Plan Members and Providers may access the UM staff via toll-free phone lines at 1-800-704-1483 or TTY 1-800-255-0056 or 711. The phone lines are open for UM related questions and or issues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls are directed to the UM department from 8:00 am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday (excluding State holidays). After normal business hours, and on State holidays, calls to the UM department are automatically routed to the Nurse Advice Line (1-800-704-1483).

Our Nurse Advice Line staff does not make authorization decisions. The Nurse Advice Line staff will take authorization information for next business day response by the health plan or notify Peach State Health Plan on-call nurse in cases requiring immediate response. Outbound communications regarding UM inquiries are conducted during normal business hours, unless otherwise agreed upon. If you are initiating or returning calls regarding UM issues, all UM staff will identify themselves by name, title and organization. If our Member Services team receives a call regarding a specific UM case/issue (inquiries about decisions beyond the confirmation of approval or denial of care), the caller will be transferred to the appropriate UM staff/phone queue for direct access to UM staff about the UM decision or process.

## Prior-Authorization

Prior Authorization requires that the provider or practitioner make a formal medical necessity determination request to Peach State Health Plan prior to the service being rendered. Upon receipt, the prior authorization request is screened for eligibility and benefit coverage and assessed for medical necessity and appropriateness of the health services proposed, including the setting in which the proposed care will take place.

To designate one or more individuals to be contacted by Peach State Health Plan for additional information or data, please fill in the designees within the Prior Authorization fax form or provide to the call agent through telephone requests, or on the State's Prior Authorization Portal form.

**Standard Service Authorization** – Prior Authorization decisions for nonurgent services shall be made within three (3) Business Days, or other established timeframe, of the request (generally submitted one week prior to the service or procedure). An extension may be granted for an additional fourteen (14) Calendar Days if the Member or the Provider requests an extension, or if the Peach State Health Plan justifies to DCH a need for additional information and the extension is in the Member’s best interest.

When the extension is granted, both the provider and member will be notified. Peach State Health Plan will gather all pertinent clinical information to support the authorization request. If the clinical information is not received, a written notification to member and provider will be generated. The Member will receive written notice of the reasons for the decision to extend the timeframe and the right to file a Grievance if he or she disagrees with that decision. If the request for authorization is approved, the care manager or designee will notify the requesting provider of the approval by telephone, fax, or email within one business day after the decision is made, not to exceed the original authorization timeframe. The reviewer will document the date and time of the notification in the authorization system. If the request for authorization is denied, or a limited authorization of a requested service, including the type and level of service, is proposed, the requesting provider will be notified in writing within two (2) business days, not to exceed the original fourteen (14) day determination timeframe.

**Expedited Service Authorization** – In the event the Provider indicates, or Peach State Health Plan determines, that following the standard timeframe could seriously jeopardize the Member’s life or health, Peach State Health Plan will make an expedited authorization determination within twenty-four (24) clock hours and provide notice as expeditiously as the Member’s health condition requires and no later than 72 clock hours after receipt of the request for service. Peach State Health Plan may extend the twenty-four (24) clock hour time period for up to five (5) business days if the member or the Provider requests an extension, or if Peach State Health Plan justifies to DCH a need for additional information and the extension is in the member’s interest.

**For proposed actions to terminate, suspend, or reduce previously authorized covered services, the Plan mails the Notice of Proposed Action 10 calendar days before the date of the proposed action or not later than the date of the proposed action in the event of one of the following exceptions:**

- Peach State Health Plan has factual information confirming the death of a member.
- Peach State Health Plan receives a clear written statement signed by the member that he or she no longer wishes services or gives information that requires termination or reduction of services and indicates that he or she understands that this must be the result of supplying that information.
- The member’s whereabouts are unknown and the post office returns the Peach State Health Plan mail directed to the member indicating no forwarding address.
- The member’s provider prescribes a change in the level of medical care.
- The date of action will occur in less than 10 calendar days in accordance with 42 CFR 483.12(a)(5)(ii).

Peach State Health Plan may shorten the period of advance notice to five calendar days before the date of action if the Plan has facts indicating that action should be taken because of probable member fraud and the facts have been verified, if possible, through secondary sources.

**Peach State Health Plan’s Medical Management Department may be contacted by phone at:**

**Medical Management: 1-800-704-1483**

Web address: [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com)

## Referral Process

The PCP should coordinate healthcare services. PCPs should refer members when medically necessary services are beyond their scope of practice. To verify if an authorization is necessary visit the Peach State Health Plan's website and utilize the online Pre-Auth Tool. To obtain a prior authorization, enter the request on the [Department of](#)

[Community Health Centralized Prior Authorization Portal](#). Members are allowed to self-refer for certain specific services (for example, family planning, dental and vision) as stated in this manual.

Peach State Health Plan encourages specialists to communicate to the PCP the need for a referral to another specialist, rather than making such a referral themselves. This allows the PCP to better coordinate their members' care, and to make sure the specialist being referred is a participating provider with Peach State Health Plan.

Providers must notify Peach State Health Plan's Care Management Department promptly of any pregnant member, but in no case later than ninety (90) calendar days prior to the expected date of delivery (unless the member is enrolled within 90 days of the expected delivery date, in which case provider notice to Peach State Health Plan must be immediate).

For access to out-of-network providers, the network provider must call Peach State Health Plan for a prior authorization for any service from an out of network or non-participating provider or facility. (Urgent, Emergency and/or Post-Stabilization Services do not require prior authorization).

Peach State Health Plan does not use paper referrals. Should a provider desire a standing referral, or access to a specialty care center for a life-threatening condition or certain prolonged conditions, the provider must contact Peach State Health Plan's Utilization Management Department.

Providers are prohibited from making referrals for designated health services to healthcare entities with which the provider or a member of the provider's family has a financial relationship.

## Inpatient Notification Process

Inpatient facilities are required to notify Peach State Health Plan for emergent and urgent inpatient admissions by the next business day of the admission with clinical information included with the request. Admissions made on weekends and Holidays require notification on the next business day with clinical.

Please submit Inpatient Medical Admissions (excluding deliveries) using the Hospital Admissions and Outpatient Procedures form on the Department of Community Health Centralized Prior Authorization Portal: [mmis.georgia.gov](https://mmis.georgia.gov).

## Delivery Notification

Notification of newborn delivery is required after the member delivers. Please use the Newborn Delivery Notification Form on the Department of Community Health Centralized Prior Authorization Portal, [mmis.georgia.gov](https://mmis.georgia.gov), to provide delivery notification.

The following information is required after the member delivers to process the claim:

- Mother's name, Medicaid number, and DOB. Please provide mother's face sheet if available.
- Newborn name (In the event a name has not been selected at the time of discharge, please submit with the newborn's gender: Baby boy or Baby girl and Last Name [ex. Baby boy Smith]).
- Member name and Medicaid number (mother)
- Newborn's Medicaid number.
- Facility name, Physician name.
- Admit date, delivery date, type of delivery.
- Gender, weight, and Apgar scores of the newborn, and gestational age of the newborn.

Notification is required to track inpatient utilization, enable care coordination, discharge planning, and ensure timely claim payment. Admissions to higher level of care (NICU) for newborns are held to the same requirement as all other inpatient notification by the next business day with clinical information included with the request. Admissions made on the weekends and Holidays require notification the next business day.

## Behavioral Health Utilization Management

The Peach State Health Plan Utilization Management department's hours of operation are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Additionally, clinical staff is available after hours, on weekdays and on weekends to conduct clinical review or, if needed, to discuss urgent UM issues. UM staff can be reached via our toll-free number at 1-800-704-1484. The Utilization Management team is comprised of qualified behavioral health professionals whose education, training and experience corresponds with the Utilization Management reviews they conduct.

Peach State Health Plan is committed to compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008 and the Interim Final Rule and subsequent Final Ruling. Peach State Health Plan will ensure compliance with MHPAEA requiring parity of both quantitative limits (QTLs) applied to MH/SUD benefits and non-quantitative limits (NQTLs). Peach State Health Plan administers benefits for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and/or services for mental health conditions as designated and approved by the contract and plan benefits. MHPAE does not preempt state law, unless law limits application of the act. We support access to care for individuals seeking treatment for mental health conditions as well as substance use disorders and believe in a "no wrong door" approach. Our strategies, evidentiary standards and processes for reviewing treatment services are no more stringent than those in use for medical/surgical benefits in the same classification when determining to what extent a benefit is subject to NQTLs.

### **The Utilization Management program strives to ensure that:**

Medically necessary means, with respect to the treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder, a service or product addressing the specific needs of that patient for the purpose of screening, preventing, diagnosing, managing or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing the progression of an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, in a manner that is:

- (A)** In accordance with the generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care;
- (B)** Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration; and
- (C)** Not primarily for the economic benefit of the insurer, purchaser, or for the convenience of the patient, treating physician, or other health care provider.
- (D)** "Mental health or substance use disorder" means a mental illness or addictive disease.
  - Member care meets Peach State Health Plan's medical necessity criteria
  - Treatment is specific to the member's condition, is effective and is provided at the least restrictive, most clinically appropriate level of care
  - Services provided comply with Peach State Health Plan's quality improvement requirements
  - Utilization management policies and procedures are systematically and consistently applied
  - Focus for members and their families centers on promoting resiliency, hope and recovery

Peach State Health Plan's utilization review decisions are made in accordance with currently accepted behavioral healthcare practices and InterQual Criteria<sup>®</sup>, taking into account special circumstances of each case that may require deviation from the norm stated in the screening criteria. Peach State Health Plan's medical necessity criteria are used for the approval of medical necessity. Plans of care that do not meet medical necessity guidelines are referred to a licensed physician advisor or psychologist for review and peer-to-peer discussion.

Peach State Health Plan conducts utilization management in a timely manner to minimize any disruption in the provision of behavioral healthcare services. The timeliness of decisions adheres to specific and standardized timeframes yet remains sufficiently flexible to accommodate urgent situations. Peach State Health Plan decision making timeframes are compliant with DCH and NCQA guidelines. Utilization Management files includes the date of receipt of information and the date and time of notification and resolution.

Peach State Health Plan's Utilization Management department is under the direction of our licensed Medical Director or physician designee(s). The Utilization Management staff regularly confers with the Medical Director or physician designee on any cases where there are questions or concerns.

The Utilization Management's decision-making process is based on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage. Peach State Health Plan does not reward practitioners or other individuals for issuing denials of coverage or services. Financial incentives for UM decision makers do not encourage decisions that result in under-utilization.

## Additional Inpatient Notification Processes

Inpatient providers (including Crisis Stabilization Units) are required to notify Peach State Health Plan of emergent and urgent behavioral health admissions within 24 hours or the next business day after the admission. We encourage acute care providers to submit prior authorization for acute care services. Authorization is required to track inpatient utilization, enable care coordination, initiate discharge planning and ensure timely claim(s) payment. Emergency behavioral health requests indicate a condition in clinical practice that requires immediate intervention to prevent death or serious harm (to the member or others) or acute deterioration of the member's clinical state, such that gross impairment of functioning exists and is likely to result in compromise of the member's safety. An emergency is characterized by sudden onset, rapid deterioration of cognition, judgment or behavior and is time limited in intensity and duration (usually occurs in seconds or minutes, rarely hours, rather than days or weeks). Thus, elements of both time and severity are inherent in the definition of an emergency.

All inpatient admissions require authorization. The number of initial days authorized is dependent on medical necessity and continued stay is approved or denied based on the findings in concurrent reviews.

Members meeting criteria for inpatient treatment must be admitted to a contracted hospital or crisis stabilization unit. Members in need of emergency and/or after hours care should be referred to the nearest participating provider for evaluation and treatment, if necessary.

**The following information must be readily available for the Peach State Health Plan Utilization Manager when requesting initial authorization for inpatient care:**

- Name, age, and Medicaid ID number of the member
- Diagnosis, indicators, and nature of the immediate crisis
- Alternative treatment provided or considered
- Treatment goals, estimated length of stay, and discharge plans
- Family or social support system Current mental status
- Medication used

For prior-authorizations during normal business hours, Network providers should call: -1-866-874-0633. For prior-authorization during weekends and after-hours, Network providers should call Peach State Health Plan's Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-704-1484.

## Outpatient Prior Authorization Process

Providers must adhere to the Covered Professional Services & Authorization Guidelines on the website when rendering services. Peach State Health Plan does not retroactively authorize treatment. Please refer to the Covered Professional Services & Authorization Guidelines to identify which services require prior authorization.

## Outpatient Treatment Request (OTR)/ Requesting Additional Sessions

Depending on the services being authorized, Providers will use the appropriate Portal as described below:

- Effective March 1, 2017, providers began submitting OTRs for Outpatient Behavioral Health Services including Assertive Community Treatment and Intensive Family Intervention (IFI) services via the GA Centralized Portal: [www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/)

Providers can check authorization status through the GA Centralize Portal. Network Providers may also call the Utilization Management Department at 1-866-874-0633 to check the status of an OTR. Providers should allow up to three (3) business days to process non-urgent requests.

### IMPORTANT:

- Please complete the OTR in its entirety. The diagnosis as well as all other clinical information must be evident. Failure to complete an OTR in its entirety can result in authorization delay and/or denials.
- Peach State Health Plan will not retroactively certify routine sessions. The dates of the authorization request must correspond to the dates of expected sessions. Treatment must occur within the dates of the authorization.
- Failure to submit a completed OTR can result in delayed authorization and may negatively impact your ability to meet the timely filing deadlines which will result in payment denial.

Peach State Health Plan's utilization management decisions are based on medical necessity utilizing InterQual criteria<sup>®</sup> and established Clinical Practice Guidelines. Peach State Health Plan does not reimburse for unauthorized services, and each agreement with Peach State Health Plan precludes providers from balance billing (billing a member directly) for covered services with the exception of copayment and/or deductible collection, if applicable. Peach State Health Plan's authorization of covered services is an indication of medical necessity, not a confirmation of member eligibility, and not a guarantee of payment.

## Guidelines for Psychological Testing

Psychological and Neuropsychological testing must be prior authorized for either inpatient or outpatient services utilizing the prior authorization forms found in the Peach State Health Plan website. Testing, with prior authorization, may be used to clarify questions about a diagnosis as it directly relates to treatment.

### It is important to note that:

- All psychological testing must be requested through the Peach State Health Plan Secure Provider Portal.
- Testing is not used to confirm previous results that are not expected to change.
- A comprehensive initial assessment should be conducted by the requesting psychologist prior to requesting authorization for testing. No authorization is required for this assessment if the practitioner is contracted and credentialed with Peach State Health Plan.

## Medical Necessity

Utilization of member coverage is indicated when medical necessity criteria is satisfied. Member benefit limits apply for a calendar year regardless of the number of different behavioral health practitioners providing treatment for the member.

Peach State Health Plan uses InterQual criteria<sup>®</sup> for behavioral health for both adult and pediatric guidelines. InterQual criteria<sup>®</sup> is a nationally recognized instrument that provides a consistent, evidence-based platform for care decisions and promotes appropriate use of services and improved health outcomes.

ASAM and the InterQual criteria<sup>®</sup> sets are proprietary and cannot be distributed in full; however, a copy of the specific criteria relevant to any individual need for authorization is available upon request. ASAM and InterQual criteria<sup>®</sup>

are reviewed on an annual basis by the Peach State Health Plan Provider Advisory Committee that is comprised of network providers as well as Peach State Health Plan clinical staff.

Peach State Health Plan is committed to the delivery of appropriate service and coverage, and offers no organizational incentives, including compensation, to any employed or contracted UM staff based on the quantity or type of utilization decisions rendered. Review decisions are based only on appropriateness of care and service criteria, and UM staff are encouraged to bring inappropriate care or service decisions to the attention of the Medical Director.

## **Utilization Management Concurrent Review**

Peach State Health Plan's Utilization Management department will concurrently review the treatment and status of all members in inpatient (including crisis stabilization units) and partial hospitalization settings through contact with the member's attending physician or the provider's Utilization and Discharge Planning departments. The frequency of review for all higher levels of care will be determined by the member's clinical condition and response to treatment. The review will include evaluation of the member's current status, proposed plan of care and discharge plans.

## **Peer Clinical Review Process**

If the Utilization Manager is unable to certify the requested level of care based on the information provided, they will initiate the peer review process.

For both mental health and chemical dependency service continued stay requests, the physician or treating practitioner is notified about the opportunity for a telephonic peer-to-peer review with the Peer Reviewer to discuss the plan of treatment. The Peer Reviewer initiates at least three (3) telephone contact attempts within twenty-four (24) hours prior to issuing a clinical determination. All attempts to reach the requestor are documented in the Utilization Management Record.

When a determination is made where no peer-to-peer conversation has occurred, a provider can request to speak with the Clinical Consultant who made the determination within one (1) business day.

The Peer Reviewer consults with qualified board certified sub-specialty psychiatrists when the Peer Reviewer determines the need, when a request is beyond his/ her scope, or when a healthcare practitioner provides good cause in writing. As a result of the Peer Clinical Review process, Peach State Health Plan makes a decision to approve or deny authorization for services. Treating practitioners may request a copy of the medical necessity criteria used in any denial decision. Copies of the Peach State Health Plan medical necessity criteria are available on our website. If you would like a paper copy of the criteria, contact Provider Services.

The treating practitioner may request to speak with the Peer Reviewer who made the determination after any denial decision. If you would like to discuss a denial decision, contact Peach State Health Plan.

## **Medical Management Concurrent Review**

The Peach State Health Plan Medical Management Department will concurrently review the treatment and status of all members who are inpatient through contact with the hospital's Utilization and Discharge Planning Departments and when necessary, the member's attending physician. An inpatient stay will be reviewed as indicated by the member's diagnosis and response to treatment. The review will include evaluation of the member's current status, proposed plan of care, discharge plans, and any subsequent diagnostic testing or procedures.

The Peach State Health Plan Medical Management Department may contact the member's admitting physician's office prior to the discharge date established during the authorization process, to check on the member's progress, and to make certain that the member receives medically necessary follow up services.

## Discharge Planning

Discharge planning activities are expected to be initiated upon admission. The Peach State Health Plan Medical Management Department will coordinate the discharge planning efforts with the hospital's Utilization and Discharge Planning Departments and when necessary the member's attending physician/PCP in order to ensure that Peach State Health Plan members receive appropriate post hospital discharge care.

## Retrospective Review

Retrospective or postservice review is an initial review of services that have been performed. For untimely requests for authorizations, providers and facilities are advised to submit the claim for processing. The claim will be denied for "services not authorized" at which time the provider may initiate the appeal process. A decision is made within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the request.

## Utilization Management Criteria

Peach State Health Plan has adopted utilization review criteria developed by Change Healthcare InterQual Products. InterQual appropriateness criteria are developed by specialists representing a national panel from community-based and academic practice. InterQual criteria cover medical and surgical admissions, outpatient procedures, referrals to specialists, and ancillary services. Criteria are established and periodically evaluated and updated with appropriate involvement from physician members of the Peach State Health Plan Utilization Management Committee. InterQual is utilized as a screening guide and is not intended to be a substitute for practitioner judgment. Utilization review decisions are made in accordance with currently accepted medical or healthcare practices, taking into account special circumstances of each case that may require deviation from the norm stated in the screening criteria. Criteria are used for the approval of medical necessity but not for the denial of services. The Medical Director reviews all potential denials of medical necessity decision.

Providers may obtain the criteria used to make a specific decision by contacting the Medical Management Department at **1-800-704-1483**.

Providers and members have the right to request a copy of the review criteria or benefit provision utilized to make a denial decision. Copies of the criteria can be obtained by submitting your request in writing to:

### **Medical Management**

1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA. 30339  
Attn: IQ Criteria

Physicians can discuss denial decisions with the physician reviewer who made the decision by calling the Medical Management Department at 1-800-704-1483, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8am and 5:30 pm.

## Behavioral Health Discharge Planning

Follow-up after hospitalization is one of the most important markers monitored by Peach State Health Plan in an effort to help members remain stable and to maintain treatment compliance after discharge. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), which develops and maintains the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS), monitors follow-up discharge closely. Even more importantly, increased compliance with this measure has been proven to decrease readmissions and helps minimize no-shows in outpatient treatment.

While a member is at an inpatient provider receiving acute care services, Peach State Health Plan's Utilization Managers and Care Managers work with the provider's treatment team to make arrangements for continued care with outpatient providers. Every effort is made to collaborate with the inpatient and outpatient providers to assist

with transition back to the community and a less restrictive environment as soon as the member is stable. Discharge planning should be initiated upon admission.

Prior to discharge from an inpatient setting, an ambulatory follow-up appointment must be scheduled with a licensed behavioral health clinician to occur within seven (7) calendar days after discharge. Peach State Health Plan's Care Coordination and Care Management staff follow-up with the member prior to this appointment to remind him/her of the appointment. If a member does not keep his/her outpatient appointment after discharge, Peach State Health Plan asks that providers inform the health plan as soon as possible. Upon notification of a no-show, Peach State Health Plan's Care Coordination staff will follow up with the member, assist with rescheduling the appointment, and provide resources as needed to ensure appointment compliance.

## Pre-Service Appeal Process

An appeal is a formal request to reconsider an adverse benefit determination. As a provider you may request an appeal on behalf of a member, however, you must obtain and provide to Peach State Health Plan written consent of the member to file an appeal on their behalf.

All standard or expedited requests for appeals must be received by Peach State Health Plan within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of the Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. Written requests for appeal should be submitted to:

Peach State Health Plan  
Grievance and Appeals Coordinator  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway  
Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
Fax: 1-866-532-8855

Providers may request an expedited appeal if a decision on an appeal is required immediately due to the member's health needs. A request for an expedited appeal may be submitted by fax at 1-866-532-8855 or by calling 1-800-704-1484. Peach State Health Plan's decision will be provided within 72 hours for the review or as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires. If we determine that the appeal is not eligible for an expedited review, we will call you right away. We will send you and the member a letter within 2 calendar days letting you know the appeal will be transferred to the standard resolution timeframe. Standard appeal decisions will be made within thirty (30) calendar days.

## Assistance and Contacting Peach State Health Plan

Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids members may obtain assistance with or initiate a Grievance, Administrative Review, Administrative Law Hearing or State Formal Appeal by contacting Peach State Health Plan at 1-800-704-1484 (or TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487).

## Second Opinion

A member, a member's representative or healthcare professional with member's consent may request and receive a second opinion from a qualified professional within Peach State Health Plan's network. If there is not an appropriate provider to render the second opinion within the network, the member may obtain the second opinion from an out-of-network provider at no cost to the member. Out-of-network and in-network specialty provider types on the prior authorization list will require prior authorization.

## Assistant Surgeon

Reimbursement is provided to assistant surgeons when medically necessary. Peach State Health Plan utilizes guidelines for assistant surgeons as set forth by the American College of Surgeons.

Hospital medical staff by-laws that require an Assistant Surgeon be present for a designated procedure are not grounds for reimbursement. Medical staff by-laws alone do not constitute medical necessity, nor is reimbursement guaranteed when the patient or family requests an Assistant Surgeon be present for the surgery. Coverage and subsequent reimbursement for an Assistant Surgeon's service is based on the medical necessity of the procedure itself and the Assistant Surgeon's presence at the time of the procedure.

## Continuity of Care

In some instances Peach State Health Plan will authorize payment for a provider other than the Peach State Health Plan PCP to coordinate the member's care. The services initiated prior to the member's enrollment with Peach State Health Plan must have been covered under a previous carrier. These services shall be continued until the member is evaluated by their PCP and a new plan of care is established. Authorization is typically for a period of ninety (90) days, or until a participating provider with equivalent expertise can be identified. All services should be coordinated with the plan to ensure continuity and quality of care. A Transition of Care form can be requested from the Medical Management department at 1-800-704-1483.

## Behavioral Health Continuity of Care

### Continuity of Care

When members are newly enrolled and have been previously receiving behavioral health services, Peach State Health Plan will continue to authorize care as needed to minimize disruption and promote continuity of care. Peach State Health Plan will work with non-participating providers (those that are not contracted and credentialed in Peach State Health Plan's provider network) to continue treatment or create a transition plan to facilitate transfer to a participating Peach State Health Plan provider. In addition, if Peach State Health Plan determines that a member is in need of services that are not covered benefits, the member will be referred to an appropriate provider and Peach State Health Plan will continue to coordinate care including discharge planning.

Peach State Health Plan network staff can also arrange a Single Case Agreement (SCA) when it becomes necessary to utilize out-of-network providers (providers not contracted with Peach State Health Plan ) to provide covered services. Peach State Health Plan will utilize out-of-network providers, if necessary, to meet the member's clinical, accessibility or geographical needs when the network is inadequate for their specific situation. Before utilizing an out-of-network provider, Peach State Health Plan makes every attempt to refer members to participating providers who are contracted and credentialed with Peach State Health Plan.

### Single Case Agreements are required for the purposes of addressing the following:

- Network accessibility within the member's geographic area
- Providers are not available with the appropriate clinical specialty, or are unable to meet special need(s) of the specific member
- Providers do not have timely appointment availability
- It is clinically indicated to maintain continuity of care
- Transition of care from an established out-of-network provider to a participating Peach State Health Plan provider

## Peach State Health Plan Care Management Services

### Definition of Care Management Services

Care Management or Care Coordination is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the services required to meet an individual's needs. Care Management serves as a means for achieving member wellness and autonomy through advocacy, communication, education, identification of services resource and service facilitation. The goal of Care Management is provision of quality health care along a continuum,

decreased fragmentation of care across settings, enhancement of the member's quality of life, and efficient utilization of patient care resources.

Although it is the Provider's responsibility to serve as the ongoing source of primary and preventative care, the Care Manager, working in collaboration with the Provider, helps identify appropriate providers and facilities throughout the continuum of services, while ensuring that available resources are being used in a timely and cost-effective manner.

### **Criteria for determining which members might benefit from Care Management:**

A key objective of Peach State Health Plan's Complex CM Program is early identification of those members who have the greatest need for Care Coordination and Care Management. This includes but is not limited to those who are classified as children or adults with special health care needs; have catastrophic, high-cost, and high-risk or co morbid conditions; have been non-compliant in less intensive programs; or are frail and elderly, disabled, or at the end of life. Identifying members for Complex Care Management may be conducted through, but not limited to, claim or encounter data, hospital discharge data, pharmacy data, or data collected at any time through the UM process. Members may also be referred directly to the care management program through self referrals or family, DM program, hospital discharge planner, Provider, hospital care management staff, Peach State Health Plan's Community Health Services Representatives, Peach State Health Plan Utilization Management staff or other Peach State Health Plan Staff. These multiple referral avenues can help to minimize the time between need and initiation of care management services. The Provider maintains an ongoing responsibility identifying members who may meet Peach State Health Plan's care management criteria.

### **Health Risk Assessment and Care Management Plan:**

Once identified, the CM team uses various assessment tools to determine whether coordination of services will result in more appropriate and cost effective care through treatment Peach State Health Plan intervention. During this assessment of the member's risk factors, patient information including cultural and linguistic needs, current health status, potential barriers to complying with the care treatment plan, and other pertinent information may be obtained from the member, family support system, Provider and other healthcare practitioners. Assessment, care treatment, care treatment plan and all interaction with the member is documented in TruCare which facilitates automatic documentation of the individual and the date and time when the CM team acted on the care or interacted with the member. The clinical documentation system (CDS) supports evidence-based clinical guidelines to conduct assessment and management and allows the CM to generate reminder prompts for follow-up according to the care management care plan.

The Care Manager develops a proposed care treatment plan in conjunction with the member, the Provider, and authorized family members or guardians when possible. This proposed care management plan is based on medical necessity, appropriateness of the discharge plan, patient/family/support systems to assist the patient in the home setting, community resources/services available and patient compliance with the prescribed care treatment plan. This care treatment plan includes short and long term goals, identifies barriers to meeting goals, provides schedules for follow-up and communication with members, and includes self-management planning and an assessment of progress against the plans and goals, with modification as needed.

The care management plan is implemented when the member, provider, care manager and /or other health care team agree to the plan. Checkpoints are put into place to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of care coordination/ care management services and the quality of care provided, and to trigger timely revisions to the care treatment plan when necessary. Behavioral health care coordination is incorporated in the treatment plan. The care manager also assists the member in transitioning to other care when benefits end.

Peach State Health Plan's Care Manager supports the physician by tracking compliance with the care management plan, and facilitating communication between the PCP, member, managing physician, and the care management team. The Care Manager also facilitates referrals and linkages to community providers, such as local health departments and school-based clinics. The managing physician maintains responsibility for the patient's ongoing care

needs. The Peach State Health Plan care manager will contact the PCP and/or managing physician if the member is not following the plan of care or requires additional services.

Peach State Health Plan will provide individual care management services for members who have high-risk, high-cost, complex or catastrophic conditions. The Peach State Health Plan care manager will work with all involved providers to coordinate care, provide referral assistance and other care coordination as required.

## Care and Disease Management Programs

In addition to general complex care management services, Peach State Health Plan also provides special needs care management programs as follows:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- HIV / AIDS
- Lead
- **Sickle Cell Anemia**
- ER Management
- High Risk Pregnancy
- Pain Management
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Chronic Conditions: Kidney, Heart Failure, COPD, Hypertension
- Behavioral Health

## Intensive Care Management (ICM)

The Care Management department provides a unique function at Peach State Health Plan. The essential function of the department is to increase community tenure, reduce recidivism, improve treatment compliance, and facilitate positive treatment outcomes through the proactive identification of members with complex or chronic behavioral health conditions that require coordination of services and periodic monitoring in order to achieve desirable outcomes. Peach State Health Plan Care Managers are licensed behavioral health professionals with at least three years' experience in the mental health field.

**Peach State Health Plan's Intensive Care Management functions include:**

- Early identification of members who have special needs
- Assessment of member's risk factors and needs
- Contact with high-risk members discharging from hospitals to ensure appropriate discharge appointments are arranged and members are compliant with treatment
- Active coordination of care linking members to behavioral health providers and, as needed, medical services including linkage with a physical health Care Manager for members with coexisting behavioral and physical health conditions, and assistance with residential, social and other support services where needed
- Development of a care management plan of care
- Referrals and assistance to community resources and/or behavioral health practitioners

For members not hospitalized but in need of assistance with overcoming barriers to obtaining behavioral health services or compliance with treatment, Peach State Health Plan offers care coordination services. Peach State Health Plan's Care Coordinators are not licensed clinical staff and cannot make decisions about what level of care is needed or assess members who are in crisis.

**Peach State Health Plan's Care Coordination functions include:**

- Coordinate with Peach State Health Plan, member advocates or providers for members who may need behavioral health services
- Assist members with locating a provider
- Serve as a resource to inpatient discharge planners needing services for members
- Coordinate requests for out-of-network providers by determining need/access issues involved
- Facilitate all requests for inpatient psychiatric consults for members in a medical bed.

Care Coordinators can also arrange a Single Case Agreement (SCA) when it becomes necessary to utilize out-of-network providers (providers not contracted with Peach State Health Plan) to provide covered services.

## Perinatal/Hi-Risk Obstetrical

Pregnancy, labor and delivery account for a large proportion of care provided to Peach State Health Plan members. Those at high risk for complications of pregnancy and poor neonatal outcomes are provided care coordination services through our Perinatal Program. The goals of the program are to screen all pregnant women, identify, and coordinate care for pregnant women who are at high-risk for complications of pregnancy and assure that all members have access to appropriate care for diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of pregnancy. Peach State Health Plan will provide educational opportunities to inform our Members about the benefits and risks associated with behaviors that may affect the outcome of their pregnancy and facilitate transitions to home when outcomes are less than ideal. We will provide educational opportunities and support for pregnant women and their partners about appropriate newborn care, as well as identify pediatric providers, and access to care for their newborns. Early notification of pregnancy from providers can aid our care managers in timely follow-ups to our members and coordination of care early on in the pregnancy to improve outcomes.

When an event occurs resulting in an early delivery and resultant admission to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, our Care Manager will work with the hospital neonatal providers, discharge planners, and managing pediatric provider to ensure a smooth transition to home and coordination of ongoing follow-up care as needed.

Other disease care management programs will be developed based on the Georgia DCH requirements.

## Lead Care Management

Peach State Health Plan will provide care management services to all eligible children with blood lead levels (BLL)  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . Services will include family education about lead poisoning, assistance in obtaining lead abatement, coordination of testing of sibling of those children identified with high blood lead levels, scheduling of appointments, and transportation when needed. In addition, our Community Resource Coordination Program provides direct outreach to parents/guardians to educate them on blood lead poisoning.

Providers are asked to contact a Peach State Health Plan Care Manager to refer a member identified in need of a care management intervention.

**Medical Management/Care Management • 1-800-504-8573 • [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com)**

## Peach State Health Plan Disease Management Programs

**As a part of the Peach State Health Plan medical management quality improvement efforts, disease management programs are offered to members. Components of the programs available include but are not limited to:**

- Increasing coordination between the medical, social and educational communities.
- Assuring that referrals are made to proper providers, including dental and/ or behavioral health providers.
- Improving levels of screening at birth and more consistent referrals to and from Early Intervention Programs.
- Encouraging family participation.
- Ensuring active and coordinated physician/ specialist participation.
- Identifying modes of delivery for coordinated care services such as, home visits, clinic visits, and phone contacts depending on the circumstances and needs of the child and his/her family.
- Increasing the member's and member's caregiver ability to self-manage chronic conditions.
- Provide appropriate education regarding the member's condition to promote understanding and adherence.
- Through appropriate education, coaching and encouragement of adherence to the physician's plan of care, increase the ability of the member and member's care giver to self-manage chronic conditions.

## Asthma Program

The asthma disease management program targets all members with the diagnosis of asthma and members with asthma who are inappropriately using rescue medications, who are having repeated visits to the ER or are being admitted to the hospital for additional care management and support from the medical management department. Based on an assessment, the severity of the member's condition is determined. All members with the diagnosis of asthma receive educational materials; the greater severity of the member's condition, the greater the frequency of contacts and the number and complexity of interventions. Additional education and coordination of care with the member's PCP are key factors in this program. The goals of this program include increasing positive clinical outcomes for the member and controlling the asthma in order to improve the quality of life for the member.

## Diabetes Program

This program targets Peach State Health Plan members who have been diagnosed and treated for diabetes mellitus. Members are then stratified based on the severity of their illness so that interventions can be targeted to the appropriate population. Through this program, Peach State Health Plan members can receive additional education, care management, and support from the medical management team to enhance positive clinical outcomes.

## Hypertension Program

The program targets Peach State Health Plan members with hypertension. Members will receive ongoing education, medication management, lifestyle modification education and general monitoring of their medical condition. The goals of the program include avoidance of non-emergent ER visits and/or hospital admissions and education regarding healthy management of their medical condition.

## Practice Guidelines and Protocols, Including Chronic Care

Peach State Health Plan clinical practice guidelines are based on the health needs and opportunities for improvement identified as part of the Quality Assessment Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program. The guidelines are based on valid and reliable clinical evidence formulated by nationally recognized professional organizations or government institutions, such as the NIH or a consensus of health care professionals in the applicable field. The guidelines consider the needs of the Members, are adopted in consultation with network providers, and are reviewed and updated periodically and at least every two years. The following Peach State Health Plan clinical practice guidelines available on the website include (but are not limited to) Asthma, Diabetes, Hypertension, Treatment of School-aged Children with ADHD and Depression. For a complete listing and access to the guidelines, please access our website, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). The guidelines are available upon request to members and providers.

## New Technology

Peach State Health Plan evaluates the inclusion of new technology and the new application of existing technology for coverage determination. This may include medical procedures, drugs and/or devices. The Medical Director and or Medical Management staff may identify relevant topics for review pertinent to Peach State Health Plan population. The Clinical Policy Committee (CPC) reviews all requests for coverage and makes a determination regarding any benefit changes that are indicated.

In the instance where the request is made for coverage for new technology, which has not been reviewed by the CPC, the Peach State Health Plan Medical Director will review all information and make a determination within three (3) business days of receipt of all information. This new technology request will then be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the CPC. If you need a new technology benefit determination or have an individual case review for new technology, please contact the Medical Management Department at 1-800-704-1483.

The DCH will be notified in writing thirty (30) days following any material change to the Medical Management Program.

# Routine, Urgent and Emergency Services

## Routine, Urgent and Emergency Care Services Defined

Members are encouraged to contact their PCP prior to seeking care, except in an emergency.

The following are definitions for **routine**, **urgent**, and **emergency services**.

**Routine - Services** to treat a condition that would have no adverse effects if not treated within twenty-four (24) hours or could be treated in a less acute setting (e.g., physician's office) or by the patient. Examples include treatment of a cold, flu, or mild sprain.

**Urgent\* - Services** furnished to treat an injury, illness, or another type of condition, including a behavioral health condition, usually not considered life threatening which should be treated within twenty-four (24) hours.

**Emergency\* - Services** furnished to evaluate and/or stabilize an emergency medical condition that is found to exist using the prudent layperson standard. An Emergency Medical Condition is a medical or mental health condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the physical or mental health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy.
- Serious impairment to bodily functions.
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.
- Serious harm to self or others due to an alcohol or drug abuse emergency.
- Injury to self or bodily harm to others; or
- With respect to a pregnant woman having contractions; (i) that there is not adequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery, or (ii) that transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or unborn child.

An emergency medical condition shall not be defined or limited based on a list of diagnoses or symptoms.

Post-Stabilization Services: Covered services, related to an emergency medical condition that are provided after a member is stabilized in order to maintain the stabilized condition or to improve or resolve the member's condition.

**Post stabilization services will be considered complete when the following occurs:**

- A plan physician with privileges at the treating hospital assumes responsibility for the enrollee's (member) care.
- A plan physician assumes responsibility for the enrollee's (member) care through transfer.
- Or the enrollee (member) is discharged.

**Stabilized:** With respect to an emergency medical condition; that no material deterioration of the condition is likely, within reasonable medical probability, to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility, or, with respect to a woman in labor, the woman has delivered (including the placenta).

**Discharge:** Point at which member is formally released from hospital, by treating physician, an authorized member of the physician's staff or by the member after they have indicated in writing, their decision to leave the hospital contrary to the advice of their treating physician.

**\*Urgent, Emergency, or/and Post Stabilization Services** does not require prior authorization or pre-certification. Emergency and Post Stabilization Services can be provided by a qualified Provider regardless of network participation.

Peach State Health Plan is financially responsible for emergency and post stabilization regardless of network participation. Notification is required by next business day for members admitted in to the hospital, no prior authorization is required.

The PCP plays a major role in educating Peach State Health Plan members about appropriate and inappropriate use of hospital emergency rooms. The PCP is responsible to follow up on members who receive emergency care from other providers.

For billing information please refer to the General Billing Information and Guidelines section.

The attending emergency room physician, or the Provider actually treating the member, is responsible for determining when the Member is sufficiently stabilized for transfer or discharge, and that determination is binding on Peach State Health Plan. However, Peach State Health Plan may establish arrangements with a hospital whereby Peach State Health Plan may send one of its own physicians with appropriate emergency room privileges to assume the attending physician's responsibilities to stabilize, treat, and transfer the member, provided that such arrangement does not delay the provision of emergency services.

Peach State Health Plan will not retroactively deny a physician claim for an emergency screening examination because the condition, which appeared to be an emergency medical condition under the prudent layperson standard, turned out to be non-emergency in nature. However, the prudent layperson test will be applied to the payment to the facility for charges which fall outside of the diagnoses codes identified by DCH as an emergency.

When a member is admitted from the emergency room, notification and clinical information is required by the next business day of the admission. For specific necessary information to submit, see the Inpatient Notification section of this manual.

## Eligibility and Enrollment

### Eligibility for the Peach State Health Plan Program

The State of Georgia has the sole responsibility for determining eligibility for the Medicaid program and whether Medicaid beneficiaries are eligible for enrollment in Georgia Families (GF). DCH or its Agent will determine eligibility for PeachCare for Kids and will collect applicable premiums eligibility. Individuals that are not enrolled in the Georgia Medicaid program and are interested in applying for the Peach State Health Plan Program should be referred to the local DFCS office in the county in which the individual lives.

The member has an opportunity to select a primary care provider (PCP) with the assistance of a Selection Counselor. Individuals who do not make a voluntary PCP selection are assigned to a PCP via an automated assignment process that links the member with an appropriate PCP.

Member eligibility in Peach State Health Plan is effective at 12:01 a.m. on the first (1st) Calendar Day after the Member's selection or Auto Assignment to Peach State and may be confirmed by any of the Eligibility Verification systems described below. Eligibility categories are as follows:

- Low Income Families.
- Transitional Medicaid.
- Pregnant Women (Right from the Start Medicaid – RSM).
- Children (Right from the Start Medicaid – RSM).
- Children (newborn).
- Women Eligible Due to Breast and Cervical Cancer .

- Refugees – Individuals, as defined under O.C.G.A. § 38-3-3, including but not limited to those who have the required Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) documentation.
- Planning for Health Babies 1115 Demonstration Waiver Participant.s
- PeachCare for Kids – The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Georgia.

## Verifying Enrollment

Providers are responsible for verifying eligibility every time a member schedules an appointment, and when they arrive for services. PCPs should also verify that a member is their assigned member. To verify enrollment call the Provider Services Department at 1-866-874-0633

## 72 Hour Eligibility Rule

Providers will be required to verify member eligibility via the MMIS web portal at [www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/) prior to providing services to Peach State Health Plan members. Providers that verify eligibility and submit claims for services within 72 hours after the verification process will have their claims honored.

**Listed below are instructions and procedures that must be followed in order to comply with this policy:**

- Eligibility verification must be completed via the MMIS web portal [www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/).
- Providers must print and maintain a valid copy of the eligibility screen shot and provide the information to the plan in the event that a claim reconsideration or appeal is required to process the claim. The screen shot must contain a date/time stamp in order to be considered valid.
- In order to reimburse providers for these services, in most case you will need to initiate an appeal and supply the plan with proof that verification was obtained via the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System website within the 72 hour time frame.

### **Appeals should be submitted to:**

#### **Peach State Health Plan**

P.O. Box 3000

Farmington, MO 63640-3812

**Please Note:** This policy only applies if the steps identified above are followed. As a reminder, Medicaid is the payer of last resort; therefore this policy does not supersede the CMS guidelines related to Peach State Health Plan has the capability to receive an ANSI X12N 270 health plan eligibility inquiry and generate an ANSI X12N 271 health plan eligibility response transactions through Peach State Health Plan. Providers also may verify member enrollment through Peach State Health Plan’s website at [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). **For more information on conducting these transactions electronically contact:**

#### **Peach State Health Plan**

C/O Centene EDI Department

1-800-225-2573, extension 25525 · or by e-mail at: [EDIBA@centene.com](mailto:EDIBA@centene.com)

Until the actual date of enrollment with Peach State Health Plan, Peach State Health Plan is not financially responsible for services the prospective member receives. In addition, Peach State Health Plan is not financially responsible for services members receive after their coverage has been terminated. However, Peach State Health Plan is responsible for those individuals who are Peach State Health Plan members at the time of a hospital inpatient admission and change health plans during that confinement.

## Newborn Enrollment

Providers are encouraged to refer the mother to Peach State Health Plan to select a PCP for their newborn. A newborn enrollment packet will be mailed to all Peach State Health Plan expectant mothers. If the mother does not select a PCP after delivery, the mother's PCP will automatically be assigned to the newborn, unless the PCP is not accepting new members or the provider has age restrictions.

**To make a PCP selection for the newborn, members should be referred to:**

**Member Services Department**  
1-800-704-1484 • TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487

All providers are also encouraged to direct the mother to her county caseworker to ensure the newborn is officially deemed eligible for the Peach State Health Plan program.

## Newborn Payment Responsibility

Peach State Health Plan is responsible for payment of services for newborn infants born to Peach State Health Plan enrolled mothers until the newborn is discharged to a home environment. Listed below is additional information regarding payment responsibility for newborns: unless the mother chooses a different Medicaid plan.

- Inpatient care for newborns born on or after their mothers' effective date will be the responsibility of the mothers' assigned plan.
- Members that are enrolled with Peach State Health Plan and are hospitalized in an inpatient facility (acute care settings) will remain the responsibility of the plan until they are discharged to a home environment, even if they change to a different Medicaid Plan, or they become eligible for coverage under the FFS or another category of Medicaid eligibility during their inpatient stay. These members will remain the responsibility of their assigned plan for all covered service, even if the start date for eligibility is made retroactive to a date prior to the hospitalization.
- The payment responsibility includes services requiring the newborn to be transported to another healthcare facility for authorized treatment/care and subsequently returned to the original facility.

Frequently, Peach State Health Plan receives a claim(s) for a newborn prior to the state sending the member's eligibility information. Peach State Health Plan is committed to researching the newborn claims that are received to ensure that a claim is NOT denied for eligibility when the newborn is a Peach State Health Plan member.

**In addition to other procedures that apply to claims, the following guidelines are used by Peach State Health Plan to help ensure that newborn claims do not deny for payment:**

1. When the claims department receives a claim, the newborn's eligibility is verified. If no newborn eligibility is found, the claim is pended for thirty (30) days. The claims department will verify eligibility each day until the newborn's information is received from the state.
2. If after thirty (30) days there is still no record of the newborn information, then the claims department will notify the Eligibility Specialist.
3. The Eligibility Specialist will contact the state to obtain the information on the newborn.
4. **At that time one of the following actions will be taken:**
  - If the newborn is eligible with Peach State Health Plan per the state's portal, then the Eligibility Specialist will enter the newborn information manually and instruct the claims department to process the claim.
  - If the newborn is NOT eligible with Peach State Health Plan then the Eligibility Specialist will instruct the claims department to return the claim with a notice of newborn ineligibility.

The above describes Peach State Health Plan's general approach and is subject to modification in accordance with DCH policies.

## Enrollment/Marketing Guidelines for Peach State Health Plan Providers

The Peach State Health Plan Provider agreement requires Providers to submit to Peach State Health Plan samples of any marketing materials they intend to distribute, and to obtain state approval prior to distribution or display. Peach State Health Plan's Provider Relations staff will submit these materials to DCH within two (2) business days of receipt, and will send Providers written notice of approval or of any changes required by DCH within two business days of receiving notice from DCH.

**Peach State Health Plan providers must adhere to enrollment/marketing guidelines as outlined by DCH. Those guidelines include the following:**

### Providers cannot:

- Influence a member to choose one health plan over another.
- Influence members based upon reimbursement rates or methodology used by a particular plan.
- Enroll members in a plan unless the physicians' office, clinic or site has been designated by the state as an enrollment center.
- Distribute any marketing materials to a Peach State Health Plan member without prior approval from Peach State Health Plan and DCH.

### Providers may:

- Stock and distribute only state approved Peach State Health Plan member educational materials to Peach State Health Plan members.
- Inform the members of particular hospital services, specialists, or specialty care available in the Peach State Health Plan network.
- Assist a member in contacting Peach State Health Plan to determine if a particular specialist or service is available.
- Directly contact only Peach State Health Plan members with whom they have an established relationship.
- Encourage pregnant Peach State Health Plan members to select a PCP for their baby before the baby is born.

## Non-Compliant Patients

There may be instances when a PCP feels that a member should be removed from his or her panel. **All requests to remove a member from a panel must be made in writing, contain detailed documentation and must be directed to:**

**Peach State Health Plan  
Member Services Department**  
Attention: Member Services Director  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339

1-800-866-0633 • Fax: 1-800-659-7518 • TDD/TTY 1-800-255-0056

**Upon receipt of such request, the Member Services Director may:**

- Interview the provider or their staff that are requesting the disenrollment, as well as any additional relevant providers
- Interview the member.
- Review any relevant medical records.
- Involve other Peach State Health Plan departments as appropriate to resolve the issue.

**An example of a reason that a PCP may request to remove a member from their panel could include, but not be limited to:**

A member is disruptive, unruly, threatening, or uncooperative to the extent that the member seriously impairs the provider’s ability to provide services to the member or to other members and the member’s behavior is not caused by a physical or behavioral condition.

**A PCP should never request a member be disenrolled for any of the following reasons:**

- Adverse change in the members health status or utilization of services which are medically necessary for the treatment of a member’s condition.
- On the basis of the member’s race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs or religion.
- Previous inability to pay medical bills or previous outstanding account balances prior to the member’s enrollment with Peach State Health Plan.

Prior to requesting Disenrollment of a Member, the Contractor shall document at least three (3) interventions over a period of ninety (90) Calendar Days that occurred through treatment, Care Management, and Care Coordination to resolve any difficulty leading to the request. The Contractor shall provide at least one (1) written warning to the Member, certified return receipt requested, regarding implications of his or her actions. This notice must be delivered within ten (10) Business Days of the Member’s action.

## Covered Services and Benefits for Peach State Health Plan Members

Peach State Health Plan is required to provide specific medically necessary services to its members. The following list provides an overview of covered services. Please refer to the current Georgia State Medicaid Plan and Georgia Medicaid Policies and Procedures Manual and DCH Bulletins and Banner Pages for further information on limitations and exclusions.

### Covered services include:

This Information applies to Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members

Service	Coverage Limits
Ambulatory Surgical Services	
Behavioral Health Services	May have limits. Community Rehabilitation Services covered when there is a written treatment plan. Initial outpatient Behavioral Health (mental health and substance abuse) evaluation, diagnostic testing, and assessment services are provider without authorization and for members twenty-two (22) year of age or younger shall be allowed to have three (3) evaluations per year without authorization (GA 4.6.11.6). Twelve (12) or more outpatient therapy/counseling services will be covered without a preauthorization. Additional therapy/counseling services will require a preauthorization (GF 4.6.11.7).
Care management Services	
Childbirth Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit of 8 classes</li> </ul>
Dental Care: Periodic check-ups / exams, Teeth cleaning, Bitewing X-rays Simple extractions, Restorative Services, Orthodontia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include: Teeth cleaning for adults</li> <li>• EPSDT services for members under 21 years old</li> <li>• Additional services covered for pregnant women</li> <li>• Orthodontic treatment – when medically necessary</li> </ul>

Service	Coverage Limits
Dialysis and services for end-stage renal disease.	
Doctor and nurses' office visits. Visits must be for checkups, lab tests, exams or treatment	
Durable medical equipment (DME) ordered by a doctor. This includes: Wheelchairs, Crutches, Walkers, Enteral products, Nebulizers, Medical supplies	Devices and equipment that are primarily and customarily used for non-medical purposes are not covered. Some items that are not covered include: comfort or convenience items, physical fitness equipment, and safety alarms and alert systems. Additional non-covered products under DME: Shakes, Meal Bars, Snack Bars, Supplement Thickeners, Cereals, Pudding, Vitamins/Minerals, Blended or pureed food in a personal care or LTC facility. Nutritional products as part of a reduced calorie diet for Diabetes, Gastric Bypass, Obesity or Bariatric Surgery. For children under the age of 21, when medically necessary, these items will be covered under the EPSDT benefit.
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services or EPSDT/Health Check	For Medicaid Children under twenty-one (21) years of age, to correct or ameliorate physical and Behavioral Health disorders, a defect, or a condition identified during an EPSDT screening or preventive visit regardless of whether those services are included in the State Health Plan, but are otherwise allowed pursuant to 1905 (a) of the Social Security Act. The EPSDT benefit is also available to PeachCare for Kids® members up to 19 years of age.
Emergency Ambulance	
Emergency Services	
Exams and treatments for children, which includes shots.	
Family Planning Services	
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May have limits</li> </ul>
Hearing Services	Hearing aids, batteries, repairs and any additional items or services pertaining to hearing aids are not covered for members twenty-one (21) years and older, this includes external replacement components and repairs for cochlear implants. They are offered under EPSDT/Health Check.
Hospice care provided by a Medicaid hospice provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered if the member is expected to live no longer than six (6) months</li> </ul>
IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act – Part C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 0 to 2, as medically necessary</li> </ul>
Inpatient hospital services. Services include room and board. They also include drugs, lab tests and other services.	
Laboratory and Radiological Services	
Nurse Practitioner Services	

Service	Coverage Limits
Nurse visits in the home after the baby is born, if needed	
Nursing Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 day or less when medically necessary.</li> <li>• Not covered: Long-term nursing facility (over 30 Consecutive Days)</li> </ul>
Nursing Midwife Services	
Obstetrical Services	
Occupational Therapy	These services are covered for children under age 21 as medically necessary. Therapy Services are covered for adults age 21 and older when medically necessary in the treatment of acute illness, injury or impairment when the condition is less than 90 days duration.
Oral Surgery	
Orthotic and Prosthetic Services	Includes such items as artificial limbs and replacement devices, breast prostheses, and prosthetic eyes and braces, diabetic and custom molded shoes.
Outpatient Hospital Services	
Outpatient Surgical Services	
Pediatric Private Duty Home Nursing Services	When medically necessary for children approved for the Georgia Assistance Pediatric Program (GAPP) between hospital discharge and the start of GAPP coverage.
Physical Therapy	These services are covered for children under the age 21 as medically necessary Therapy Services are covered for adults age 21 and older when medically necessary in the treatment of acute illness, injury or impairment when the condition is less than 90 days duration.
Podiatric Services	Services for flatfoot, subluxation, routine foot care, supportive devices and vitamin B-12 injections are not covered.
Pregnancy Services	
Prescription Drugs	See our Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the drugs we cover.
Rural Health Clinic Services	
Second Medical Opinions	Must be provided by a doctor in the network, when available. This is provided at no cost to the member.
Speech Therapy Services	These services are covered for children under the age 21 as medically necessary. Therapy Services are covered for adults age 21 and older when medically necessary in the treatment of acute illness, injury or impairment when the condition is less than 90 days duration.
Substance Abuse Treatment	<p>May have limits.</p> <p>Treatment is covered as part of a written treatment plan. It includes inpatient and outpatient care. P4HB limited to detoxification and Intensive Outpatient Services.</p>
Swing Bed Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services not requiring direct professional nursing care/nursing supervision are not covered</li> <li>• Service must be provided within the State Hospital must have a swing bed agreement.</li> </ul>

Service	Coverage Limits
Transplants – all recognized, non-experimental organ transplants are covered if deemed medically necessary for members under the age of 21.	Kidney, liver, bone marrow and cornea are only covered transplants for age 21 and older.
Vision Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered services include exams and prescription eyewear</li> <li>• FREE eye exam each year for members age 21 and over. No copay</li> <li>• No office copay for PeachCare for Kids members age six and under</li> <li>• FREE pair of glasses. Once per year for members age 21 and over. No copay. Contact lenses if medically necessary</li> <li>• \$100 allowance towards glasses, broken frames or contact lenses outside of what is covered by Medicaid</li> <li>• 20% discount on a second pair of prescription glasses or sunglasses</li> <li>• Free vision care supplies for adults</li> </ul>

If you have any questions about these services or additional benefits, please contact:

**Peach State Health Plan Provider Services: 1-866-874-0633**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Services are only covered by Peach State Health Plan for members through the age of three (3) years old.

For members four (4) years or older requiring IDEA and IEP services benefits will be provided by traditional Medicaid.

\*All Family Planning services should be provided on a voluntary and confidential basis to all members including those that are less than eighteen (18) years of age.

## Role of a Dental Home

A dental home serves as the member’s primary care dentist (PCD) for all aspects of oral health care. The PCD has an ongoing relationship with the member to provide comprehensive, continually accessible, coordinated and family-centered care. The PCD also makes referrals to dental specialists when appropriate. Federally Qualified Health Centers, individuals who are general dentists, and pediatric dentists can serve as main dental homes.

All Members under age twenty-one (21) have access to Dentists within thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) miles of the Member’s home address for urban areas and within forty-five (45) minutes or forty-five (45) miles for rural areas who will serve as the Members’ Dental Home. The Dental Home is inclusive of all aspects of oral health and involves parents, the patient, dentists, dental professionals, and non-dental professionals. The Dental Home is the Primary Dental Provider who has accepted the responsibility for providing or coordinating the provision of all dental care services covered under Peach State Health Plan.

## Value Added Benefits for Peach State Health Plan Members

Peach State Health Plan has developed a package of Value Added Services for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids that will enhance member benefits beyond the DCH Covered Services. The Value Added Services below exceed DCH benefits and were designed to improve members’ wellbeing, encourage responsible and prudent use of health care benefits, and enhance the cost effectiveness of the Georgia Families and PeachCare for Kids programs.

Nurse Advice Line is Peach State Health Plan’s 24-hour, toll-free nurse triage and education phone service through which callers can reach both customer service and bilingual nursing staff. The hotline provides access to a broad range of

services including health education, urgent pharmacy refills, and transportation for treatment and crisis interventions. It promotes member responsibility and prudent use of healthcare resources and improves the overall quality of member care. Integration of Nurse Advice Line and Peach State Health Plan telecommunications systems, tracking software, databases, and business processes facilitate speedy and seamless member and provider after hour's hotline services.

## **START SMART for Your Baby<sup>®</sup>**

START SMART for Your Baby (START SMART) is our special program for women who are pregnant. This program provides educational materials that tackle the most critical issues affecting the child's development during pregnancy. START SMART offers a preventive approach that encourages prenatal education for the expectant mother in an effort to achieve the best possible outcome. START SMART encourages pregnant women to keep their prenatal care appointments; educates members and their families about pregnancy; identifies members who may be at high risk for developing complications; and provides support in dealing with medical, socioeconomic and environmental issues that may contribute to complications.

Identifying pregnant members as early as possible, providing them with adequate prenatal care and guidance as well as addressing complications as effectively as possible should result in improved outcomes for both the mother and the newborn.

## **Dental Services**

Peach State Health Plan will provide emergency dental services for members age 21 and older.

## **Vision Services**

Peach State Health Plan covers vision care for members. We have improved this benefit. The member will have to pay the costs over this amount.

### **Services include:**

- Covered services include exams and prescription eyewear
- FREE eye exam each year for members age 21 and over. No copay
- No office copay for PeachCare for Kids members age six and under
- FREE pair of glasses. Once per year for members age 21 and over. No copay. Contact lenses if medically necessary
- \$100 allowance towards glasses, broken frames or contact lenses outside of what is covered by Medicaid
- 20% discount on a second pair of prescription glasses or sunglasses
- Free vision care supplies for adults.

## **Transportation Services**

To arrange transportation for a Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids member, the member should contact the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) vendor that services the member's home county.

Urgent same day or next day transportation is available for an acute sick visit to the primary care provider (PCP) or urgent care center, or if discharged from the hospital. In situations where urgent transportation is needed and cannot be coordinated with the NEMT vendor in a timely fashion, Peach State Health Plan Member Services Representatives will coordinate transportation arrangements.

**Member Services Department: 1-800-704-1484 • TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487**

## NEMT regions and contact information:

**Atlanta:** 404-209-4000 (Verida)

**North:** 1-866-388-9844 (Verida)

**Central:** 1-888-224-7981 (ModivCare)

**Southeast:** 1-888-224-7988 (ModivCare)

**Southwest:** 1-888-224-7985 (ModivCare)

**East:** 1-888-224-7988 (ModivCare)

**PeachCare for Kids** provides transportation for members in all of the six regions. Call Verida at 1-800-6579965 at least 3 days before your appointment to schedule transportation. Urgent same day or next day transportation is available for acute sick visit to primary care provider (PCP) or urgent care center, or if discharged from the hospital.

## Domestic Violence

Peach State Health Plan's members may include individuals at risk for becoming victims of domestic violence. Thus, it is especially important that providers are vigilant in identifying these members. Member Services can help members identify resources to protect them from further domestic violence.

For Georgia residents, you may refer victims of domestic violence to the Georgia Domestic Violence Network hotline, at **1-800-33-HAVEN (334-2836)** for information about local domestic violence programs and shelters within the state of Georgia.

Providers should report all suspected domestic violence as described. State law requires reporting by any person if he or she has "reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse". Such reporting can be done anonymously. Report any injuries from firearms and other weapons to the police. Report any suspected child abuse or neglect immediately to Children's Services at the appropriate county.

## EPSDT

### Georgia EPSDT Services and Standards

EPSDT, otherwise known as the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, is a program of comprehensive preventive health services available to Medicaid recipients less than 21 years of age and PeachCare for Kids children less than 19 years of age. The program is designed to maintain health by providing early intervention to discover and treat health problems. Peach State Health Plan's EPSDT benefit provides preventive services and medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services to include medical, hearing, vision, dental, mental and substance abuse services.

Preventive health is a major principal on which care management organizations are based, measured, and held accountable. It is the responsibility of Peach State Health Plan to encourage EPSDT eligible Peach State Health Plan covered recipients to participate in the EPSDT program. Peach State Health Plan provides information and education about the need for an EPSDT preventive medical and dental examination to all EPSDT eligible members.

#### EPSDT services include:

- Outreach and informing.
- Screening in accordance with the Bright Futures schedule and ACIP schedule.
- Tracking compliance with EPSDT requirements.
- Diagnostic and treatment services.

#### Education includes (but is not limited to) the need for each EPSDT preventive health visit to include:

- A comprehensive health and developmental history (including assessment of both physical and mental health development).

- A comprehensive unclothed physical examination (unclothed means to the extent necessary to conduct a full, age-appropriate exam).
- Appropriate immunizations (according to the schedules established by the ACIP for individuals 0 – 18 years of age and nineteen (19) and older).
- Laboratory tests (including blood lead level assessment appropriate to age and risk screening).
- Health education (including anticipatory guidance).
- Measurements (including head circumference for infants and body mass index).
- Sensory screening (vision and hearing).
- Oral health assessment.
- Sexually Transmitted Infection/ Human Immunodeficiency Virus (STI/HIV) screening.
- Screening for mental health and substance abuse.

Peach State Health Plan provides to each PCP on a monthly basis, a list of the PCP's EPSDT eligible children that have not had an encounter during the initial ninety (90) calendar days of Peach State Health Plan enrollment, and/or are not in compliance with the Bright Futures periodicity schedule. PCPs are required to outreach to members via phone/ mail to encourage them to schedule and keep their preventive visits and/or follow up visit appointments.

**PCPs are required to perform EPSDT preventive medical check-ups in their entirety and at the required intervals in accordance with the most current Peach State Health Plan adopted Bright Futures Schedule.**

All components of exams must be documented and included in the medical record of each EPSDT eligible member. Initial EPSDT preventive medical exams are to be completed within ninety (90) days of the initial effective date of membership and within twenty-four (24) hours of birth and prior to discharge for all newborns. PCPs should provide inter-periodic screens, which are screens that occur between the complete periodic screens and are Medically Necessary to determine the existence of suspected physical or mental illnesses or conditions. This includes at a minimum vision and hearing services. An inter-periodic visit may be performed only for vision or hearing services. EPSDT services are free.

**The frequencies of these visits are as follows:**

- Eleven (11) Outpatient EPSDT preventive medical exams should be provided by the PCP from Birth through the child's 30 month old visit. Six (6) of those should be performed from birth through the day before the child's first birthday. The other five (5) should be performed at the 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months and 30 months exams.
- From the child's third birthday and up to the day prior to the individual's 21st birthday, an EPSDT preventive medical exam should be provided annually or one per **AGE**.

## Immunizations

Children must be immunized during medical checkups according to the current Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) Schedule. The current 0 – 6 years, 7 – 18 and older and the "catch-up" schedule can be found at the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/child-adolescent-age.html>. Peach State requires all EPSDT eligible members to be immunized by their PCP unless medically contraindicated. Providers must report all immunizations to the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS) in accordance with Georgia law.

Peach State Health Plan follows the current American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) dental periodicity schedule (Guideline on Periodicity of Examination, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance/Counseling, and Oral Treatment for Infants, Children, and Adolescents). PCPs should refer children to a dentist at the first tooth eruption and no later than 12 months of age.

## Vaccines for Children (VFC)

Vaccines for Children (VFC) is a vaccine supply program, which is state operated and federally funded. VFC supplies federally purchased vaccines at no cost to VFC-enrolled providers to be administered to members ages birth through 18 years of age. Peach State Health Plan providers must enroll in VFC and must use VFC vaccines for members who are eligible for them. An administration fee is the only reimbursement a provider will receive for administering vaccines otherwise available through the VFC program. PeachCare for Kids members must receive state purchased vaccines. Members 19 years of age and older are not eligible to receive vaccine supplies through the VFC program. VFC provider enrollment is conducted directly by the VFC program and an enrollment package can be obtained by contacting VFC by phone at 404-657-5013 or 1-800-848-3868, or by fax at 404-657-5736 or 1-800-372-3627.

To view the most recent list of VFC covered vaccine codes, please refer to The Department of Community Health “Part II Policies and Procedures for EPSDT Services” Appendix C.

For members nineteen (19) years of age through twenty (20) years of age, VFC stock is not available. Providers must use their own stock of vaccines for these Peach State Health Plan eligible members. Peach State Health Plan reimburses for the vaccine product and for administration when vaccines are administered to members nineteen (19) years of age through twenty (20) years of age.

## Blood Lead Screening

Since 1989, Federal law has required that children enrolled in Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids must have their blood lead level measured at **12 and 24 months of age**. Children between the ages of **36 and 72 months of age** must receive a blood lead test immediately if they have not been previously tested for lead poisoning.

A blood lead test, capillary or venous, must be used when screening children. A capillary Blood Lead Test that is elevated  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  reported by a certified lab must be confirmed with a repeat Blood Lead Test (confirmatory venous specimen is preferred) at a certified laboratory.

Please note that completing a lead risk assessment questionnaire does not count as a blood lead screening. PCP's should refer any EPSDT eligible member with a positive blood lead test equal to or greater than 3.5 micrograms per deciliter to Peach State Health Plan's care management services.

## Referrals for Treatment

When a preventive health screening examination indicates the need for further evaluation of a Member's health, the Referral for diagnosis must be made without delay. The PCP must either treat (if qualified) or refer all members with abnormal findings for treatment. Follow-up is required to ensure that the Member receives a complete diagnostic evaluation.

## EPSDT Records Submission

Peach State Health Plan providers may submit medical record evidence to the plan to demonstrate member compliance with EPSDT services that are identified as non-compliant. This can be done using the Provider Secure Portal (Portico) or through fax. Please submit (faxed) Medical records to Peach State Health Plan EPSDT Department. **Medical Records Submission (Fax): 1-877-250-5497.**

## EPSDT Services Manual

For complete requirements and expectations, please refer to The Department of Community Health “Part II Policies and Procedures for EPSDT Services (EPSDT)” Manual. This manual is updated quarterly and can be found at the below link: [www.mmis.georgia.gov](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov).

# Behavioral Health Benefits, Covered Services and Authorizations

## Behavioral Health Covered Services

Peach State Health Plan shall provide a full range of medically necessary services authorized under the State Plan, and specified in the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) Part II Policies and Procedures for the Medicaid FFS program, CMO contract and the Georgia respective Medicaid provider manuals. **Covered services include:**

- Inpatient hospital services for behavioral health and substance use disorder conditions
- Outpatient hospital services for behavioral health and substance use disorder conditions
- Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment
- Community based Acute Residential Treatment
- Crisis Intervention
- Partial Hospitalization
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Medication Management
- Psychological Testing
- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Community Support Services
- Face-to-Face Care Management
- Disease Management
- Telemedicine

For a listing of service codes, limitations, and authorization requirements, please refer to the Georgia Covered Services and Authorization Guidelines located at [www.pshp.com/providers/resources/behavioral-health](http://www.pshp.com/providers/resources/behavioral-health). Behavioral health evaluations, diagnostic assessments and assessment services do not require authorization. For members under the age of 22, Peach State Health Plan permits up to three (3) initial evaluations per year for Members. Providers should refer to their agreement with Peach State Health Plan to identify which services they are contracted and eligible to provide. All services performed must be medically necessary.

## General Billing Information and Guidelines

Physicians, other licensed health professionals, facilities, and ancillary provider's contract directly with Peach State Health Plan for payment of covered services.

It is important that providers ensure Peach State Health Plan has accurate billing information on file. **Please confirm with your Provider Relations Department that the following information is current in our files:**

- Provider Name (as noted on his/her current W-9 form).
- Valid, unique GA Medicaid ID Number for each practicing location.
- Physical location address (as noted on current W-9 form).
- Billing name and address (if different).
- Tax Identification Number.
- Provider NPI.

Providers must bill with both their provider Taxonomy Code and NPI in box 24J. In addition, you must include your ID qualifier in box 24I for the Taxonomy Code. Peach State Health Plan will return claims when billing information does not match the information that is currently in our files. Claims missing the requirements in bold will be returned, and a notice sent to the provider, creating payment delays. Such claims are not considered “clean” and therefore cannot be entered into the system.

We recommend that providers notify Peach State Health Plan in advance of changes pertaining to billing information. Please submit this information on a W-9 form. Changes to a Provider’s Tax Identification Number and/or address are NOT acceptable when conveyed via a claim form.

### **Claims eligible for payment must meet the following requirements:**

- The member is effective on the date of service.
- The service provided is a covered benefit under the member’s contract on the date of service.
- Referral and prior authorization processes were followed.

Payment for service is contingent upon compliance with referral and prior authorization policies and procedures, as well as the billing guidelines outlined in this manual.

## **Reimbursement Policies**

Peach State Health Plan considers a variety of resources when developing its reimbursement policies including Department of Community Health guidelines, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines, National Correct Coding Initiative standards, Industry-Standard Reimbursement Logic and other Correct Coding Methodology. Peach State Health Plan reimbursement policies apply to all professionals who deliver health care services to Peach State Health Plan members.

Peach State Health Plan routinely reviews its reimbursement policies to ensure providers are reimbursed for services rendered based on regulatory requirements and industry standards. Peach State Health Plan may modify reimbursement policies periodically by publishing a new version of the policy on Peach State Health Plan website. Providers are encouraged to routinely refer to the Peach State Health Plan website for information regarding current health plan reimbursement policies, billing guidelines and for updates regarding reimbursement policy changes. To review Peach State Health Plan’s current Reimbursement policies visit the Peach State Health Plan Payment Policy Library located at: <http://www.pshpgeorgia.com/for-providers/provider-resources/provider-manuals/>.

## **Timely Filing Requirements**

All claims must be received by the plan within six (6) months from the date the service was provided in order to be considered for payment. Claims received after this time frame will be denied for failure to file timely.

Claims that have been denied due to erroneous or missing information must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months of the month in which

the denial occurred, whichever is later. In order to be considered the denied claim must be resubmitted with corrected information electronically or via paper. When resubmitting a denied claim the appropriate corrected claim resubmission code and original claim number must be included. **Corrected claims should be submitted as follows:**

- CMS-1500 should be submitted with the appropriate resubmission code (value of 7) in Box 22 of the paper claim with the original claim number of the corrected claim and a copy of the original Explanation of Payment (EOP). EDI 837P data should be sent in the 2300 Loop, segment CLM05 (with value of 7) along with an addition loop in the 2300 loop, segment REF\*F8\* with the original claim number for which the corrected claim is being submitted.

- UB-04 should be submitted with the appropriate resubmission code in the third digit of the bill type (for corrected claim this will be 7), the original claim number in Box 64 of the paper claim and a copy of the original EOP. EDI 837I data should be sent in the 2300 Loop, segment CLM05 (with value of 7) along with an addition loop in the 2300 loop, segment REF\*F8\* with the original claim number for which the corrected claim is being submitted.

## Refunds and Overpayments

Peach State Health Plan regularly audits claims for payment errors. When claims are identified to have been underpaid or overpaid, Peach State will reprocess these claims appropriately. When Providers identify overpayments, you are responsible for reporting these overpayments to Peach State Health Plan. Providers have 60 days from the date you identify the overpayment, to submit a refund to Peach State Health Plan. Please include the reason for the overpayment to include the specific claim(s) affected by the overpayment identified.

**Please remit the overpayment, to the following address:**

Peach State Health Plan  
Attn: Finance  
1100 Circle 75 Pkwy, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, Ga 30339

## Claim Adjustment

Providers may resubmit a claim(s) to correct a simple billing error or to request an adjustment if you believe the payment made by the plan is incorrect. In order to be considered for payment claims in this category must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months of the month of payment on the EOP, which is later. When submitting a claim adjustment ensure that the appropriate corrected claim resubmission code and original claim number are included on the claim to help us identify that this is a resubmission of an existing claim. A Provider Adjustment form must be completed for all resubmission requests along with the supporting documentation. Your claim will be reviewed and a decision rendered based on the information provided. The filing limit may be extended for newborn claims, when Peach State Health Plan is the secondary payor.

The filing limit may be extended for newborn claims where the eligibility has been retroactively received by Peach State Health Plan, up to a maximum of 365 days.

Providers may submit a Provider Adjustment request in the event of an overpayment. The request should include the specific claim(s) affected and indicate if the overpayment is to be deducted from future reimbursement or the provider is issuing reimbursement payment.

## Electronic Claims Submission

Claims originally filed timely with a third party carrier must be received within 180 days of the date of the primary carrier's EOP, but never more than twelve (12) months from the month of service.

## COB Timely Filing

Network providers are encouraged to participate in Peach State Health Plan's Electronic Claims/Encounter Filing Program through Centene. Centene has the capability to receive an ANSI X12N 837 professional, institution or encounter transaction. In addition, Centene has the capability to generate an ANSI X12N 835 electronic remittance advice known as an Explanation of Payment (EOP). For more information on electronic filing, contact:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
C/O Centene EDI Department  
1-800-225-2573, extension 25525  
Or by e-mail at: [EDIBA@centene.com](mailto:EDIBA@centene.com)

Providers who bill electronically are responsible for filing claims within the same filing deadlines as providers filing paper claims. Providers who bill electronically must monitor their error reports and evidence of payments to ensure all submitted claims and encounters appear on the reports. Providers are responsible for correcting any errors and resubmitting the affiliated claims and encounters.

**Peach State Health Plan dental claims should be submitted to:**

**Involve Dental - GA Claims**  
P. O. Box 22085  
Tampa, FL 33622-2085  
Dental Provider Services - 1-844-464-5632

**Peach State Health Plan vision claims should be submitted to:**

**Claims Submissions**  
Vision Claims  
Department P.O. Box 7548  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
Vision Provider Services – 866-458-2139

**Behavioral Health claims should be submitted to:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
P.O. Box 6700  
Farmington, MO 63640-3816  
**Peach State Health Plan:** C/O Centene EDI Department  
1-800-225-2573, extension 25525  
Or by e-mail at: [EDIBA@centene.com](mailto:EDIBA@centene.com)

## Paper Claims Submission

For Peach State Health Plan members, all claims and encounters, with the exception of those services listed as “carve outs” i.e., routine dental services, routine vision services, outpatient mental health services, outpatient chemical dependency and outpatient substance abuse services should be submitted to:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
P.O. BOX 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812  
ATTN: CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

**Peach State Health Plan dental claims should be submitted to:**

**Involve Dental - GA Claims**  
P. O. Box 22085  
Tampa, FL 33622-2085  
Dental Provider Services - 1-844-464-5632

**Peach State Health Plan vision claims should be submitted to:**

**Claims Submissions**  
Vision Claims Department  
P.O. Box 7548  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
Vision Provider Services – 866-458-2139

Behavioral Health claims should be submitted to:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
P.O. Box 6700  
Farmington, MO 63640-3816

## Imaging Requirements

Peach State Health Plan uses an imaging process for claims retrieval. To ensure accurate and timely claims capture, please observe the following claims submission rules:

### Do's

- Do use the correct PO Box number.
- Do submit all claims in a 9" x 12", or larger envelope.
- Do type all fields completely and correctly.
- Do use black or blue ink only.
- Do submit on a proper form...CMS 1500 or UB 04.

### Don't's

- Don't submit handwritten claim forms.
- Don't use red ink on claim forms.
- Don't circle any data on claim forms.
- Don't add extraneous information to any claim form field.
- Don't use highlighter on any claim form field.
- Don't submit photocopied claim forms.
- Don't submit carbon copied claim forms.
- Don't submit claim forms via fax

## Clean Claim Definition

Peach State Health Plan uses DCH's definition of a clean claim. A clean claim means a claim received by Peach State Health Plan for adjudication, in a nationally accepted format in compliance with standard coding guidelines and which requires no further information, adjustment, or alteration by the provider of the services in order to be processed and paid by Peach State Health Plan. The following exceptions apply to this definition: (a) a claim for payment of expenses incurred during a period of time for which premiums are delinquent; (b) a claim for which fraud is suspected; and (c) a claim for which a Third Party Resource should be responsible.

## Non-Clean Claim Definition

Non-clean claims are submitted claims that require further investigation or development beyond the information contained therein. The errors or omissions in claims result in the request for additional information from the provider or other external sources to resolve or correct data omitted from the bill; review of additional medical records; or the need for other information necessary to resolve discrepancies. In addition, non-clean claims may involve issues regarding medical necessity and include claims not submitted within the filing deadlines.

## What is an Encounter Versus a Claim?

You are required to submit an encounter or claim for each service that you render to a Peach State Health Plan member. **See the definitions below:**

- If you are the PCP for a Peach State Health Plan member and receive a monthly capitation amount for services, you must file a "proxy claim" (also referred to as an "encounter") on a CMS 1500 for each service provided. Since you will have received a pre-payment in the form of capitation, the "proxy claim" or "encounter" is paid at zero dollar amounts. It is mandatory that your office submits all encounter data. Peach State Health Plan utilizes the encounter reporting to evaluate all aspects of quality and utilization management, and it is required by the State of Georgia and by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

- A claim is a request for reimbursement submitted either electronically or by paper for any medical service. A claim must be filed on the proper form, such as CMS 1500 or UB 04. A claim will be paid or denied with an explanation for the denial. For each claim processed, an Explanation of Payment (EOP) will be mailed to the provider who submitted the original claim.

## Claims and Encounter Codes

Providers must follow the submission procedures outlined in the Georgia EPSDT Policies and Procedures Manual located on the DCH website.

- Providers are required to utilize standard claims and encounter codes listed in the State manual. A list of EPSDT codes is provided in Appendix C of the DCH Georgia EPSDT Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Peach State Health Plan will NOT accept homegrown codes. Claims that are submitted with homegrown codes will be denied.
- PCPs must provide an initial visit for all pregnant Members within fourteen (14) calendar days as required by DCH regulations.
- PCPs must demonstrate compliance with the EPSDT periodicity schedule and screening requirements (including blood lead screening) for at least 80% of their eligible members, in accordance with the methodology prescribed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Providers should pay particular attention to the following items when submitting EPSDT Claims and encounter data. These items will ensure your claim/encounter data is complete and promptly processed.

- Box 14 on the CMS 1500 should be used for the provider to indicate the date of the last menstrual period (LMP) for pregnant members.
- Pregnant members are exempt from co-payments, therefore when billing for care provided to pregnant Peach State Health Plan members you must include the following information:
  - Place a “P” in field 24h of the CMS 1500 Form and
  - Place a “P” in field 80 of the UB-04.
  - Billing with the “P” is required to ensure that a co-payment is not deducted for pregnant members in accordance with the Georgia Medicaid guidelines.
  - For additional information regarding this requirement, please visit <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/> and reference Banner Message ACSBNR07082005\_3, Changes to Member Co-payments, dated July 08, 2005. Additional information is also available in Appendix Q of the Part II Policies and Procedures for Physicians Services Manual, also located on the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System.
- Administration codes (for vaccines) themselves are not reimbursable. The provider must bill the vaccine code, and is paid a rate based on the type of vaccine administered (single or multi-antigen).
- Claims submitted with an Administration code will be denied for payment.

## Procedures for Filing a Claim/Encounter Data

Peach State Health Plan encourages all providers to file claims/encounters electronically. See “Electronic Claims Submission” in this section for more information on how to initiate electronic claims/encounters.

### **Please remember the following when filing your claim/encounter:**

- All documentation must be legible.
- PCPs and all participating providers must submit claims or encounter data for every member visit, even though they may receive a monthly capitation payment.

- Provider must ensure that all data and documents submitted to Peach State Health Plan, to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief, are accurate, complete, and truthful.
- All claims and encounter data must be submitted on either form CMS 1500, UB 04, or by electronic media in an approved format.
- Review and retain a copy of the error report that is received for claims that have been submitted electronically, then correct any errors and resubmit with your next batch of claims.
- All claims must be received by the plan within six (6) months from the month the service was provided in order to be considered for payment. Claims received after this time frame will be denied for failure to file timely.

## Timely Resubmission

Claims that have been denied due to erroneous or missing information must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months of the month in which the denial occurred, whichever is later.

In order to be considered the denied claim must be resubmitted with corrected information via the website or via paper. When resubmitting a denied claim on paper more than six (6) months after the month of service, a copy of the EOP with the denial must be attached to demonstrate that the original claim was submitted timely.

## Claim Adjustment

Providers may resubmit a claim(s) to correct a simple billing error or to request an adjustment if you believe the payment made by the plan is incorrect. In order to be considered for payment claims in this category must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months of the month of payment on the EOP, which is later.

Please include the appropriate corrected claim resubmission code and original claim number are included on the claim to help us identify that this is a resubmission of an existing claim. A Provider Adjustment form must be completed for all resubmission requests along with the supporting documentation. Your claim will be reviewed and a decision rendered based on the information provided.

## Common Billing Errors

**In order to avoid rejected claims or encounters always remember to:**

- Use SPECIFIC CPT-4 or HCPCS codes. Avoid the use of non-specific or “catch-all” codes (i.e. 99070).
- Use the most current CPT-4 and HCPCS codes. Out-of-date codes will be denied.
- Use the 4th or 5th digit when required for all ICD-10 codes.
- Submit all claims/encounters with the proper provider number.
- Submit all claims/encounters with the member’s complete Medicaid/PeachCare number or the member’s Peach State Health Plan ID number.
- Verify other insurance information entered on claim.
- The 11 digit National Drug Code (NDC) must be reported on all qualifying claim forms when injectable drugs are administered in the office/outpatient setting; excluding applicable vaccines/immunizations. Failure to submit the exact applicable NDC (do not report 9999999999 to bypass edit) administered to the member will result in front- end rejection and/or denial of claims. When reporting a drug, enter identifier N4, the eleven-digit NDC code, Unit Qualifier, and number of units from the package of the dispensed drug for the specified detail line.
- Do not enter a space, hyphen, or other separator between N4, the NDC code, Unit Qualifier, and number of units.

- If you are given an NDC that is less than 11 digits, add the missing digits as follows:
  - For a 4-4-2 digit number, add a 0 to the beginning.
  - For a 5-3-2 digit number, add a 0 as the sixth digit.
  - For a 5-4-1 digit number, add a 0 as the tenth digit.
- Example: N412345678901UN2000.

## Code Auditing and Editing

Peach State Health Plan uses HIPAA compliant code-auditing software to assist in improving accuracy and efficiency in claims processing, payment, and reporting. The code auditing software will detect, correct, and document coding errors on provider claims prior to payment. Our software will analyze HCPCS Level I/CPT-4 codes (5-digit numeric coding system which applies to medical services delivered); HCPCS Level II codes (alpha-numeric codes which apply to ambulance services, medical equipment, supplies and prosthetics); CPT Category II (“F” codes used for tracking purposes) and CPT Category III (“T” codes or temporary codes used for new and emerging technologies) and healthcare industry standard modifiers against correct coding guidelines. These guidelines have been established by the American Medical Association (CPT, CPT Assistant, and CPT Insider View) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In order to maintain its high standard of clinical accuracy, credibility and physician acceptance, our code-auditing software’s audit logic is reviewed on a regular basis to keep current with medical practice, coding practices, revisions to the CPT Manual, CMS updates and universally accepted specialty society guidance.

Inherent within the code auditing software product is the clinical knowledge base or edit logic which is used to determine reimbursement recommendations. The clinical knowledge base contains the definitions, rules, functions and auditing logic which is based on generally accepted principles of coding medical services for reimbursement. Our code-auditing software is not designed to make reimbursement or payment decisions. Instead, the software will offer a recommendation (auditing action) that is applied to the claim when a provider’s coding pattern is unsupported by a coding principle.

Reimbursement/payment decisions will continue to be based on the fee schedules and contract agreements between the provider and the Plan. Furthermore, while the code-auditing software has been designed to assist in evaluating the accuracy of procedure coding; it will not evaluate medical necessity. Peach State Health Plan may request medical records or other documentation to assist in the determination of medical necessity, appropriateness of the coding submitted, or review of the procedure billed.

When an edit recommendation is made on your submitted code(s), we will provide a general explanation of the reason for the edit which will be detailed on your Explanation of Payment (or remittance advice). **The following list gives examples of conditions where the code-auditing software will make a recommendation on submitted codes:**

**Unbundling:** Procedure unbundling occurs when a provider submits a global CPT/HCPCS code along with other CPT/ HCPCS codes that are considered included in the global code billed.

**Fragmentation:** The separate billing of component codes of a procedure without listing the more comprehensive code.

**Modifier to Procedure Code Validation:** Claim lines submitted with modifiers invalid for the submitted procedure codes listed on the claim.

**Age/Gender:** Submitting procedure codes inappropriate for the member’s age or gender because of the nature of the procedure.

**Assistant Surgeon:** Procedure codes submitted with an assistant surgeon modifier, 80, 81, and 82 or AS that typically do not require an assistant surgeon.

**Add on Without Base Code:** Submitting an add-on procedure code as a stand-alone code without the primary procedure code billed on the claim or a historical claim.

**Duplicate Procedure Edits:** CPT codes that contain terminology that does not warrant multiple submissions of the code (i.e., unilateral, unilateral/bilateral, single/multiple) or procedure codes which would not normally be reported in duplicate.

**Bilateral:** Identifies a claim line where a procedure code has been billed with/without a modifier 50, where a historical claim was found that was billed with the same procedure code, and with the modifier 50. The software will recommend a denial of the second submission.

### **Global Surgical Period (pre-op, post-op and same day rules):**

Addresses payment/non-payment of evaluation and management services billed during the global surgical period of another procedure.

**Evaluation and Management Editing:** Identifies certain diagnostic tests/studies which are a component of the E/M service billed and should not be reported separately.

**Modifier Additions:** Identifies professional services that should have been billed with the 26 modifier for the procedure performed and the place of service.

## **Knowledge Base Auditing and Rules**

Peach State Health Plan's code-auditing software audits against both professional claims and outpatient facility claims. The software's "knowledge base" contains auditing logic and rules based on accepted principles regarding the manner by which medical services should be coded for reimbursement. That being said, if the software recommends an auditing action (edit) against a claim line, a rule is fired which corresponds to a coding principle. The code auditing software's knowledge base contains coding principles based on coding standards developed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT Manual, CPT Assistant, CPT Insider View); specialty society guidelines such as the American College of Surgeons, American College of Radiology, and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

### **Using a comprehensive set of rules, the code auditing software provides consistent and objective claims review by:**

- Accurately applying coding criteria for the clinical areas of medicine, surgery, laboratory, pathology, radiology and anesthesiology as outlined by the American Medical Association's (AMA) CPT-4 manual.
- Evaluating the CPT-4 and HCPCS codes submitted by detecting, correcting and documenting coding inaccuracies including, but not limited to, unbundling, upcoding, fragmentation, duplicate coding, invalid codes, and mutually exclusive procedures.
- Incorporating Historical Claims Auditing (HCA) functionality which links multiple claims found in a patient's claims history to current claims to ensure consistent review across all dates of service.

## **Billing Codes**

It is important that providers bill with codes applicable to the date of service on the claim. Billing with obsolete codes will result in a potential denial of the claim and a consequent denial in payment. Submit professional claims with current, valid CPT-4, HCPCS and ICD-10 codes. Submit institutional claims with valid Revenue codes and CPT-4 or HCPCS (when applicable), ICD-10 and DRG codes (when applicable).

Providers will also improve the efficiency of their reimbursement through proper coding of a patient's diagnosis. We require the use of valid ICD-10 diagnosis codes, to the ultimate specificity, for all claims. The highest degree of specificity or detail, can be determined by using the Tabular list (Volume One) of the ICD-10 code manual in addition to the Alphabetic List (Volume Two) when locating and designating diagnosis codes.

In addition, written descriptions, itemized statements, and invoices may be required for non-specific types of claims or at the request of Peach State Health Plan.

## Claim Payment

Non-clean claims will be adjudicated (finalized as paid or denied) within thirty (30), business days from the date of the original submission. Non-clean claims will be adjudicated (finalized as paid or denied) within thirty (30) days of receipt of the electronic claim.

No later than the fifteenth (15th) business day after the receipt of a provider claim that does not meet Clean Claim requirements, Peach State Health Plan will pend the claim and request additional information through the Peach State Health Plan Website or Explanation of Benefits for all outstanding information such that the claim can be deemed clean. Upon receipt of all the requested information from the provider, Peach State Health Plan will complete processing of the claim within fifteen (15) business days.

Claims pended for additional information must be closed (paid or denied) by the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) calendar day following the date the claim is pended if all requested information is not received prior to the expiration of the 30-day period. Peach State Health Plan will send providers written notification via the Website or an Explanation of Benefits for each claim that is denied, including the reason(s) for the denial, the date contractor received the claim, and a reiteration of the outstanding information required from the provider to adjudicate the claim.

Peach State Health Plan shall process, and finalize, all appealed claims to a paid or denied status within thirty, (30) days from the date of denial of claim payment.

*Note: It is the provider's responsibility to check their audit report to verify that Peach State Health Plan has accepted their electronically submitted claim.*

Clean claims will be adjudicated (finalized as paid or denied) within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of the claim. Non-clean claims will be adjudicated (finalized as paid or denied) within thirty (30) days of receipt of the electronic claim.

Claims pended for additional information must be closed (paid or denied) by the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) calendar day following the date the claim is pended if all requested information is not received prior to the expiration of the 30-day period. Peach State Health Plan will send providers written notification via the website or an Explanation of Benefits for each claim that is denied, including the reason(s) for the denial, the date contractor received the claim, and a reiteration of the outstanding information required from the provider to adjudicate the claim.

## Unsatisfactory Claim Payment

**If a provider has a question or is not satisfied with the information they have received related to a claim, they should contact: Provider Services Department 1-866-874-0633**

- When submitting a paper claim for review or reconsideration of the claims disposition, the claim must contain the appropriate resubmission code (value of 7) and the original claim number in box 22 of the CMS-1500. The UB-04 must be submitted with the appropriate resubmission code in the third digit of the bill type and the original claim number in box 64. Additionally, both the CMS-1500 and UB-04 claim forms should be free of handwritten verbiage.

- Providers may discuss questions with Peach State Health Plan. Provider Services Representatives regarding amount reimbursed or denial of a particular service; Providers may also submit in writing, with all necessary documentation, including the Explanation of Payment (EOP) for consideration of additional reimbursement.
- Any response to approved adjustments will be provided by way of check with accompanying explanation of payment.

All disputed claims will be processed in compliance with the claims payment resolution procedure as described herein. For an explanation regarding how to request an informal claim payment adjustment or file a complaint refer to the process described herein.

## Billing Forms

Providers submit claims using standardized claim forms whether filing on paper or electronically. Submit claims for professional services and durable medical equipment on a CMS 1500. The following areas of information on CMS 1500 claim forms are common submission requirements of a clean claim accepted for processing:

- Full member name
- member's date of birth
- A valid member identification number
- Complete service level information:
  - Date of Service
  - Diagnosis
  - Place of Service
  - Procedure Code (appropriate CPT-4, ICD-10 codes)
  - Charge Information and units
- Servicing provider's name, address, taxonomy code, and NPI number
- Provider's federal tax identification number
- All mandatory fields must be complete and accurate

Submit claims for hospital based inpatient and outpatient services as well as swing bed services on a UB 04.

## Completing a CMS 1500 Form

All medical claims are to be submitted on the CMS 1500.

### The CMS 1500 claim form is required for:

- All professional services "including specialists"
- Individual practitioners
- Non-hospital outpatient clinics
- Transportation providers
- Ancillary Services
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Non-institutional expenses
- Professional and/or technical components of hospital based physicians and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)
- Home Health Services

The CMS 1500 **must** provide all requested information to receive payment for services rendered. Failure to do so may result in delayed or denied reimbursement.

Peach State Health Plan requires all **CAPITALIZED, BOLD TYPE FIELDS** to be completed. Failure to complete these fields may cause the claim or encounter to be rejected. An asterisk next to a capitalized, bold type (required) field indicates required if applicable. Listed below are the field numbers and names, along with explanations of the fields.

**R**=Required

**C**=Conditionally required/if applicable

**Blank**=Not required

Peach State Health Plan accepts all nationally approved and recognized coding as defined by CMS national correct coding initiatives and guidelines.

## CMS 1500 Standard Place of Service Codes

### Place of Service Codes

00 - 10	Not in Use	51	Inpatient Psychiatric Facility
11	Office	52	Psychiatric Facility Partial Hospitalization
12	Home	53	Community Mental Health Center
13 - 20	Not in Use	54	Immediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded
21	Inpatient Hospital	55	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
22	Outpatient Hospital	56	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center
23	Emergency Room - Hospital	57 - 60	Not in Use
24	Ambulatory Surgical Center	61	Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility
25	Birth Center	62	Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility
26	Military Treatment Facility	63, 64	Not in Use
27 - 30	Not in Use	65	End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facility
31	Skilled Nursing Facility	66 - 70	Not in Use
32	Nursing Facility	71	State or Local Public Health Clinic
33	Custodial Care Facility	72	Rural Health Clinic
34	Hospice	73 - 80	Not in Use
35 - 40	Not in Use	81	Independent Laboratory
41	Not Valid	82 - 98	Not in Use
42	Not Valid	99	Other Unlisted Facility
43 - 50	Not in Use		

## Completing a UB 04 Claim Form

A UB 04 is the only acceptable claim form for submitting inpatient or outpatient hospital (technical services only) charges for reimbursement by Peach State Health Plan. In addition, a UB 04 is required when billing for nursing home services, swing bed services with revenue and occurrence codes, inpatient hospice services, ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) and dialysis services.

Incomplete or inaccurate information will result in the claim/encounter being rejected or denied for corrections.

**R** = Required

**C** = Conditionally required/if applicable

**Blank** = Not required

## UB 04 Inpatient Documentation

The following information should be submitted along with the UB 04:

- Consent forms for hysterectomies, abortions, and sterilizations.
- Specific additional information upon request by Peach State Health Plan.

## UB 04 Hospital Outpatient Claims/Ambulatory Surgery

The following information applies to outpatient and ambulatory surgery claims:

- Professional fees must be billed on a CMS 1500 claim form.
- Include the appropriate CPT-4 code next to each revenue code.

## UB 04 Claim Instructions

Peach State Health Plan requires all **CAPITALIZED, BOLD TYPE FIELDS** to be completed. Failure to complete these fields may cause the encounter to be rejected. An asterisk next to a capitalized, bold type (required) field indicates required if applicable.

## Billing the Member

Peach State Health Plan reimburses only services that are medically necessary and covered through Medicaid. Providers can bill a member only if they provide proof that they attempted to obtain member insurance identification information within one hundred and eighty (180) days of service. See the Georgia DCH Provider Manual for additional explanation and instruction regarding member co-payment services. Providers should not bill or otherwise seek reimbursement from the member or other interested party for missed appointments.

### Applicable Co-payments

Children under age six (6), pregnant women, nursing facility residents, Hospice care members and children who are American Indian or Alaska Native are NOT required to make copayments.

**However, there are no co-payments for these services:**

- Emergency services.
- Preventive Care Services (routine check-ups for your child).
- Immunizations.
- Routine preventive and diagnostic dental services (such as oral examinations, prophylaxis and topical fluoride applications, sealants, and x-rays).
- EPSDT Preventive Care Services provided in RHC/FQHC setting.

**SERVICES CANNOT BE DENIED TO ANYONE BASED ON THE INABILITY TO PAY THESE CO-PAYMENTS.**

## Co-Payments for PeachCare for Kids Members

We want to let you know about updates to the PeachCare for Kids copay amount you pay for services. The charts below show co-pay amounts listed by services.

Type of Service	Co-Payment Amount
Durable Medical Equipment	\$1.00 or \$3.00 (service based)
Federally Qualified Health Centers	\$2.00
Free Standing Rural Health Clinic	\$2.00
Home Health Services	\$3.00

Type of Service	Co-Payment Amount
Hospital-based Rural Health Center	\$2.00
Inpatient Hospital Services	\$12.50
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	Co-pay amount based on cost of service* See chart below.
Orthotics and Prosthetics	\$3.00
Outpatient Hospital Services	\$3.00
Pharmacy – Preferred Drugs	\$0.50
Pharmacy – Non-Preferred Drugs	Co-pay amount based on cost of service* See chart below.
Physician Services	Co-pay amount based on cost of service* See chart below.
Podiatry	Co-pay amount based on cost of service* See chart below.
Vision Care	Co-pay amount based on cost of service* See chart below.

**\*The co-payment amounts below are for the following services:** Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Pharmacy – Non-Preferred Drugs, Physician Assistant Services, Physician Services (Doctor’s office visits), Podiatry and Vision Care.

### Cost of Service Co-Payments\*

Cost of Service	Co-Payment Amount
\$10.01 to \$25.00	\$1.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00	\$2.00
\$50.01 or more	\$3.00

If you have any questions about the co-payments, please contact Peach State Health Plan’s Member Services Department toll free at 1-800-704-1484. You can call Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. If you are hearing impaired, please call TDD/TTY 1-800-255-0056.

## Member Acknowledgement Statement

A provider may bill a member for a claim denied as not being medically necessary, not a covered benefit, or the member has exceeded the program limitations for a particular service only if the following condition is met:

**Prior to the service being rendered, the provider has obtained and kept a written Member Acknowledgement Statement signed by the client that states:**

*“I understand that, in the opinion of (provider’s name), the services or items that I have requested to be provided to me on (dates of service) may not be covered under the Georgia Department of Community Health as being reasonable and medically necessary for my care. I understand that Peach State Health Plan through its contract with the Department of Community Health determines the medical necessity of the services or items that I request and receive. I also understand that I am responsible for payment of the services or items I request and receive if these services or items are determined not to be reasonable and medically necessary for my care.”*

## Emergency Department Hospital Claims Adjudication Process

### Purpose

This process describes the methodology to be used by Peach State Health Plan for managing the Emergency Services benefit in compliance with directives from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the applicable State Agencies. This process delineates only adjudication of Emergency Department claims. Peach State Health Plan intends to work with physicians and hospitals to decrease the need for Emergency Services through proactive strategies that address chronic conditions such as asthma and to redirect, the member to their primary care provider

(PCP). In addition, Peach State Health Plan provides Emergency Department (ED) post-discharge follow up and continuity of care services.

Peach State Health Plan is dedicated to providing its members with high-quality healthcare. This includes immediate access to Emergency Services when required. At the same time, Peach State Health Plan recognizes that it is not in the member's best interests to receive routine (non-emergent) episodic care in the ED and that members are best served by receiving such care from their PCP's.

## Background

**The federal Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 and the Medicaid statute has established the definition of "Emergency Medical Condition (EMC)" as follows:**

A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment of bodily functions; or
- Serious dysfunction of any body organ or part.

The contract agreement between Peach State Health Plan and the Georgia Department of Community Health contains essentially the same definition of an EMC as in the federal statute. It states:

**Emergency Medical Condition:** A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain), such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy, serious impairments of bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part. An Emergency Medical Condition shall not be defined on the basis of lists of diagnoses or symptoms.

**The agreement further delineates that an EMC is a medical or mental health condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in the following:**

- Placing the physical or mental health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;
- Serious harm to self or others due to an alcohol or drug abuse emergency;
- Injury to self or bodily harm to others.

With respect to a pregnant woman having contractions: (i) that there is not adequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery, or (ii) that transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or unborn child.

CMS has issued specific guidelines to State Medicaid Directors regarding that agency's expectations of how the Medicaid Emergency Services benefit is to be administered utilizing the prudent layperson (PLP) standard as defined above. These guidelines are contained in letters to the State Medicaid Directors dated February 20, 1998, April 5, 2000 and April 18, 2000. The following statements from the April 18, 2000 letter have a direct bearing on the Hospital Claims Adjudication Process.

*“The BBA requires that a Medicaid beneficiary be permitted to obtain emergency services immediately at the nearest provider when the need arises. When the prudent layperson standard is met, no restriction may be placed on access to emergency care. Limits on the number of visits are not allowed. The determination of whether the prudent layperson standard is met must be made on a case-by-case basis. The only exceptions to this general rule are that payers may approve coverage on the basis of an ICD-10 code, and payers may set reasonable claim payment deadlines (taking into account delays resulting from missing documents from the initial claim). Note that payers may not deny coverage solely on the basis of ICD-10 codes. Payers are also barred from denying coverage on the basis of ICD-10 codes and then requiring resubmission of the claim as part of an appeal process. This bar applies even if the process is not labeled as an appeal. Whenever a payer (whether an MCO or a State) denies coverage or modifies a claim for payment, the determination of whether the prudent layperson standard has been met must be based on all pertinent documentation, must be focused on the presenting symptoms (and not on the final diagnosis), and must take into account that the decision to seek emergency services was made by a prudent layperson (rather than a medical professional).”*

ED claims coded with a diagnosis that represents certain diagnoses or conditions (e.g., status asthmaticus or fractured femur) that are recognized as a medical emergency will result in the claims being treated and reimbursed as an emergency based on the rate negotiated with the hospital. Claims for emergency services submitted with a diagnosis that represents a disease or condition that is not recognized as an emergency situation (e.g., upper respiratory infection), will be reimbursed at the triage rate or the hospital’s contracted rate, whichever is applicable. In these cases the hospital may submit a written request for reconsideration within three (3) months of the month of payment. An ED reconsideration request received outside the three (3) month time frame will be denied as untimely.

All requests for reconsideration of an ED claim paid at the triage rate must be submitted in writing to the following address along with the medical records and other clinical rationale (i.e., presenting symptoms, patient age, date, and time of arrival) that supports overturning the triage rate. A Medical Director or his designee will review the information.

### **Peach State Health Plan**

ATTN: Peach State Health Plan PLP Appeals  
PO Box 3000  
Farmington, MO 63640-3800

Peach State Health Plan will automatically reprocess the claim at the contracted rate, if the decision is made to overturn the triage rate. If the decision is made to uphold the triage rate, you may request a formal appeal by submitting the claim and any additional documentation for consideration under the appeals process. You will receive written notification of the decision once the final appeal determination has been made. Please contact the Provider Solutions department at 866-874-0633 if you have questions or if you need additional information regarding the ED claim review process.

### **ICD-10 Diagnosis Code Auditing and Review**

ICD-10 codes are reviewed and may be moved to different diagnosis categories based on actual adjudication experience. For example, if it is discovered that claims with an ICD-10 diagnosis code that is designated as a non-obvious emergency is being paid 90 percent of the time, the ICD-10 diagnosis code may be moved to a more appropriate classification. Peach State Health Plan will consider any requests for reclassifying specific ICD-10 diagnosis codes if the hospital believes Peach State Health Plan has misclassified the diagnosis code. If after review, it is determined that an ICD-10 diagnosis code qualifies for reclassification, the reclassification will apply to all hospitals.

## Third Party Liability and Coordination of Benefits (COB) Guidelines

Third Party Liability (TPL) refers to any other health insurance plan or carrier (e.g., individual, group, employer-related, self-insured or self-funded, or commercial carrier, automobile insurance and worker's compensation) or program, that is, or may be, liable to pay all or part of the health care expenses of the member.

Coordination of Benefits (COB) refers to members with two or more types of insurance coverage. The plan that is primary pays its full benefits first. The primary insurance carrier's explanation of benefits (EOB) is then sent to the secondary carrier/Peach State Health Plan, for coordination of benefits. The primary EOB information will explain the primary's payment or denial process.

Medicaid is the payor of last resort, therefore Peach State Health Plan will make every effort to cost avoid claims or services that are subject to payment from a third party health insurance carrier, and may deny a service if the third party health insurance carrier provides the service. **Cost avoidance applies to all covered services except claims for EPSDT.**

- Peach State Health Plan complies with Georgia Medicaid COB policies and utilizes the "Pay and Chase" approach as required.
- Providers must make reasonable efforts to determine the legal liability of third parties to pay for services furnished to Peach State Health Plan members and must bill the primary payor prior to billing Peach State Health Plan (see exceptions above).
- When a provider bills the claim to the primary carrier and files the claims with the EOP, Peach State Health Plan will coordinate with the primary payor to pay the claim up to the plan's allowable amount, but we will not exceed the amount we would have paid had we paid as the primary coverage.
- If a third party health insurance carrier requires the member to pay cost-sharing amounts (e.g. co-payments, coinsurance, and deductible), Peach State Health Plan will pay the cost sharing amount but we will not exceed the amount we would have paid had we paid as the primary coverage.
- Providers will receive written notification along with primary payor information prior to Peach State Health Plan initiating a recoupment. Recovery efforts will apply only to claims that are less than twelve months from the date the claims was paid.
- Information regarding the other liability coverage is available through our call center, and via the secure web portal.
- Claims originally filed timely with a third party carrier must be received within 180 days of the date of the primary carrier's EOP, but never more than twelve (12) months from the month of service.
- To the extent permitted by state and federal law, Peach State Health Plan will use cost avoidance processes as required by DCH.

# Inquiry, Claims Adjustments and Provider Appeals

## Inquiry, Claims Adjustment, Administrative Review, and Provider Appeals

### Claims-Specific Processes

Providers should exhaust each level of the claims inquiry and resolution process before initiating the next level.

#### Status inquiries

To check the status of previously submitted claim(s), providers should contact the Peach State Health Plan Provider Services Department at 1-866-874-0633, Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Providers should have the servicing provider's name, member name, member ID number, date of birth, date of service and claim number, if applicable.

### Resubmitted Claims

#### Timely Resubmission

Claims that have been denied due to erroneous or missing information must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months of the month in which the denial occurred, whichever is later. In order to be considered the denied claim must be resubmitted with corrected information via the website or via paper. When resubmitting a denied claim on paper more than six (6) months after the month of service, a copy of the EOP with the denial must be attached to demonstrate that the original claim was submitted timely. Please include the appropriate corrected claim resubmission code and original claim number are included on the claim to help us identify that this is a resubmission of an existing claim.

#### Resubmitted claims should be sent to:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
PO Box 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812

Providers resubmitting claims must attach a statement along with documentation, including the EOP explaining the reason for resubmission.

#### Reasons for resubmission include but are not limited to:

- Provider has corrected the claim (for example, previously submitted wrong diagnosis, etc.)
- Denial for other insurance
- Problem with electronic filing, now sending paper claim
- No payment received within 30 days of initial filing of claim. Providers must wait at least 30 days from the initial submission before resubmitting the claim. The claim must include the appropriate corrected claim resubmission code and original claim number. This will help to ensure that the claim is not denied as a duplicate.

### Claim Adjustment

Providers may resubmit a claim(s) to correct a simple billing error or to request an adjustment if you believe the payment made by the plan is incorrect. In order to be considered for payment claims in this category must be received within six (6) months from the month in which the service was rendered or within three (3) months from the end of the month of payment on the EOP, whichever is later. Please be sure to include the appropriate resubmission code and original claim number on the claim form to help us identify that this is a resubmission of an existing claim. A Provider Adjustment form must be completed for all resubmission requests along with the supporting documentation. This form is located in the Provider Forms section of the Peach State Health Plan website, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). Your claim will be reviewed and a decision rendered based on the information provided.

## Claim Appeal

Claim appeals must be filed within thirty (30) Calendar days after the date of the claim denial. All Claim appeals require a Provider Appeal Request Form that must be completed and submitted with supporting documentation.

This form is located in the Provider Forms section of the Peach State Health Plan website, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). An acknowledgement letter will be sent within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the Claim appeal. If the initial claim determination is upheld, the provider will be notified in writing within thirty (30) Calendar days of Peach State Health Plan's receipt of the claim appeal. If the initial claim determination is overturned, the provider will be notified through a newly issued EOP. If the Provider is still not satisfied with the decision, you have the option of choosing an Administrative Law Hearing or Binding Arbitration. The request for an Administrative Law Hearing must be submitted within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the plan's decision pursuant to O.C.G.A. §49-4-153-(e)(1). Requests received after this time frame will not be considered.

Providers with questions regarding provider appeals should call the Provider Services Department at 1-866-874-0633.

Peach State Health Plan shall allow a provider that has exhausted the internal appeals process related to a denied or underpaid claim or group of claims bundled for appeal, the option either to pursue the administrative law hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 49-4-153( e)(1) or to select binding arbitration by a private arbitrator who is certified by a nationally recognized association that provides training and certification in alternative dispute resolution. If the Peach State Health Plan and the provider are unable to agree on association, the rules of the American Arbitration Association shall apply. The arbitrator shall have experience and expertise in the health care field and shall be selected according to the rules of his or her certifying association. Arbitration conducted pursuant to 33-21A-7 shall be binding on the parties. The arbitrator shall conduct a hearing and issue a final ruling within 90 days of being selected, unless the plan and the provider mutually agree to extend this deadline. All costs of arbitration, not including attorney's fees, shall be shared equally by the parties.

**You must exhaust all of the Plan's internal appeals processes prior to requesting an Administrative Law Hearing or Binding Arbitration. Requests should be mailed to:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
Attn: Administrative Law Hearing Coordinator  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339

## Reimbursement for Outlier Cases

### Criteria for Outlier DRG Calculation:

- (a) A case meets the outlier DRG criteria when it meets two (2) conditions:
  - 1. It would normally be paid through the inlier DRG payment mechanism.
  - 2. The operating cost of the case is more than the assigned DRG cost threshold.
- (b) In addition, a hospital must request that a claim be reviewed to assess manually if it meets the above two (2) conditions.

The hospital must submit the information listed below with the request. All requests submitted without the required documentation will not be accepted. If the request and all required documentation is not received by the plan within three (3) months from the month in which Peach State Health Plan reimburses the case rate (inlier payment) the outlier payment request will be denied for failure to request payment reconsideration in a timely manner. Once an outlier request has been submitted to Peach State Health Plan for review, the providers Can Not void the claim via the web. **Providers who repeatedly request adjustments or voids generating the need for a positive adjustment may be subject to adverse action by the Plan.**

**Facilities requesting outlier payment consideration must submit the following documents with the request:**

- a) REQUIRED OUTLIER DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST
  - b) Itemized Charges for Admission each page of the itemization must be numbered.
  - c) The itemization must be listed by revenue code order, subtotalling each revenue code.
  - d) Each item must contain the description, quantity (units) billed, and the charge for that item. Itemizations that reflect rolled up charges into one line item will be denied.
2. Utilization review notes signed and dated physician's orders, physician's progress notes, discharge summary, physical therapy notes, inhalation therapy notes, occupation therapy notes, speech therapy notes, and operative notes. Utilization review notes must indicate the severity of illness/intensity of service (SI/IS) that was met for medical necessity of the hospital stay. Failure to document the SI/IS criteria in the utilization review notes may result in the denial of your DRG outlier request. All notes must be organized and each section labeled. Only required documentation should be submitted. If the entire medical record is submitted, the request will be denied.
  3. Copies of all UB-04 claims on the admission.
  4. Copies of all paid remittances on the admission.
  5. Copies of the Medicare Explanation(s) of Benefits when the member is Medicare eligible.
  6. A cover letter must be submitted indicating the request is for outlier with **a contact person, physical address (for mailing purposes), and phone number for each case.**

All charges to be considered for additional reimbursement must be in a paid status in the claims processing system prior to submission of the outlier request. Claims for which a third party pays at or in excess of the DRG payment should not be billed to Peach State Health Plan; therefore, cost outlier reimbursement for such claims is not available. Any services listed on the itemized charges and not billed to Peach State Health Plan must be identified by the hospital. The billed amount on the itemized charges, the UB claim form, and the EOP must agree.

Hospital utilization review programs must include review of the medical necessity for admission, the appropriateness of services and the medical necessity for continued stay. In some cases more information is required to complete the review process. When additional information not identified above is requested, it must be received within thirty (30) days of the date of request. If the additional information is not received by the due date, the request for outlier payment will be denied. Please ensure that the request is clearly marked:

**Outlier Payment Request and mailed to:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
P.O. Box 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3812

It is the responsibility of the provider to assure that each and every outlier claim and all information necessary to complete the review is received by Peach State Health Plan. Information regarding outlier status may be obtained by Peach State Health Plan's Provider Services line at 1-866-874-0633.

The following items must be submitted as outlined below for Outlier review. Only required chart documents should be submitted for review. If the entire chart is submitted the record will not be reviewed and the provider must resubmit the Outlier record with only the required documents.

- Cover Letter naming Contact Person
- Copy of the original claim(s)

- Copy of EOP
- Detailed Itemized Charges with Revenue Codes
- Charts documented on itemized bill correlate with UB-04
- Itemized bill is numbered by provider and quantities.
- Billed documented
- Total charges and DOS match on itemized bill, EOP and UB-04 unless a HAC/Never Event is present
- Charges documented in the itemized bill but not billed on the UB-04 are identified and marked through on the itemized bill
- Utilization Review Notes documenting severity of illness and intensity of service criteria met; Notes signed and dated
- Physician Progress Notes
- Physician Discharge Summary
- Physician orders
- OR Procedure Notes (if applicable)
- Physical/Occupational/Speech/Respiratory Therapy Notes (if applicable)
- Chart is organized and labeled for review and only documents required are submitted
- Request submitted within 90 day deadline of paid EOP
- No charges on the itemized bill that has a charge of zero. No “whitening out” or striking through of items with a zero charge.
- Hospital Acquired Conditions/Never Events deleted from itemized claim unless on exception list.

All requests for outlier consideration will be processed in a timely manner. Notification of the decision will appear on the EOP or a letter if the claim does not qualify for outlier consideration.

### **Outlier Claims Consideration:**

All requests for outlier appeal consideration must be submitted in writing and received within three (3) months of the date of the initial EOP on which the claim appears. If the request and all required documentation are not received by the plan within three (3) months of the initial EOP payment, the outlier reconsideration request will be denied for failure to request payment reconsideration in a timely manner. **Facilities requesting outlier payment consideration must submit the following documents with the request:**

- A cover letter indicating the request is for outlier appeal consideration
- The original UB04 (red and white) claim and an itemized bill
- A copy of the EOP on which the original claim appears
- All requests for outlier consideration will process in a timely manner. Notification of the decision will appear on the EOP or a letter if the claim does not qualify for outlier consideration.
- Utilization review notes signed and dated, physician’s orders, physician’s discharge summary, inhalation therapy notes, and operative notes. Utilization review notes must indicate the severity of illness/intensity of service (SI/IS) that was met for medical necessity of the hospital stay. Failure to document the SI/IS criteria in the utilization review notes may result in the denial of your DRG outlier request. Only required documentation should be submitted. If the entire medical record is submitted, the request may be denied. In some cases more information is required to complete the review process. When additional information not identified above is requested, it must be received within thirty (30) days of the date of request. If not received by the due date, the request for outlier payment will be denied.

Please ensure that the request is clearly marked **Outlier Appeal Consideration Request** and mailed to:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
P.O. Box 3030  
Farmington, MO 63640-3912

## **Claims Audits**

Peach State Health Plan uses claims audits to ensure accuracy of the claims payment process.

## **Provider Complaints**

Peach State Health Plan's provider complaint system permits providers to dispute Peach State Health Plan's policies, procedures, or any aspect of Peach State Health Plan administrative functions (including the process by which Peach State Health Plan handles Proposed Actions and Explanation of Payment), other than the specific claims and administrative review matters described above.

Providers may consolidate complaints of multiple claims that involve the same or similar payment or coverage issues, regardless of the number of individual patients or payment claims included in the bundled complaint.

Providers may contact Peach State Health Plan's Provider Services Department via telephone, electronic mail, or in person, to ask questions, file a provider complaint inquire about a provider complaint and resolve problems related to a provider complaint.

**Provider complaints must be submitted in writing (or via the Peach State Health Plan website) within thirty (30) Calendar Days of receipt of the Notice of Proposed Action, Explanation of Payment or administrative function to the Peach State Health Plan Provider Complaint Coordinator at the address below:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
Attn: Provider Complaint Coordinator

The provider's complaint must be clearly documented. The Peach State Health Plan Provider Complaint Coordinator will issue an acknowledgment letter within ten (10) business days of receipt of the complaint. If the initial determination is upheld, the provider will be notified in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of Peach State Health Plan's receipt of the complaint.

Peach State Health Plan shall allow a provider that has exhausted the internal appeals process related to a denied or underpaid claim or group of claims bundled for appeal, the option either to pursue the administrative law hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 49-4-153 (e )(1) or to select binding arbitration by a private arbitrator who is certified by a nationally recognized association that provides training and certification in alternative dispute resolution. If the plan and the provider are unable to agree on association, the rules of the American Arbitration Association shall apply. The arbitrator shall have experience and expertise in the health care field and shall be selected according to the rules of his or her certifying association. Arbitration conducted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 33-21A-7 shall be binding on the parties. The arbitrator shall conduct a hearing and issue a final ruling within 90 days of being selected, unless the plan and the provider mutually agree to extend this deadline. All costs of arbitration, not including attorney's fees, shall be shared equally by the parties.

**Provider requests for Administrative Law Hearing or Binding Arbitration with a copy of the Adverse Determination Letter must be sent to:**

**Peach State Health Plan**  
Attn: Administrative Law Hearing Coordinator  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Request Must be received within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the Administrative Determination letter. Hearing Request received after this time frame will not be considered.

## Claim Payment Audits

Peach State Health Plan audit review nurses will perform retrospective review of claims paid to providers to ensure accuracy of the payment process. If a claim is found to be overpaid, the amount will be recouped against future claim payments. A letter will be sent to the provider notifying them of the reason for the recoupment and the amount.

## Post Processing Claims Audit

### Background

**Peach State Health Plan is contractually obligated to have procedures in place to detect waste, fraud, and abuse. This is achieved through:**

- Claims editing
- Post-processing review of claims
- Provider profiling and credentialing
- Quality control
- Utilization management

As accountable and fiscally responsible stewards of public funds, we take the prevention and detection of waste, fraud, and abuse very seriously. Peach State Health Plan has a management contract with its parent organization, Centene Corporation (Centene) in which Centene conducts routine post-processing claims audits on behalf of Peach State Health Plan. These audits are designed to ensure that billing codes and practices are correct and that Peach State Health Plan has paid health care providers appropriately. In addition to provider reviews, Centene also investigates members who appear to be abusing the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs.

### Post Processing Claims Audit

A post-processing claims audit consists of a review of clinical documentation and claims submissions to determine whether the payment made was consistent with the services rendered. To start the audit, Centene Auditors request medical records for a defined review period. Providers have two weeks to respond to the request; if no response is received, a second and final request for medical records is forwarded to the provider. **If the provider fails to respond to the second and final request for medical records, or if services for which claims have been paid are not documented in the medical record, Peach State Health Plan will recover all amounts paid for the services in question.**

Centene Auditors review cases for potential unbundling, upcoding, mutually exclusive procedures, incorrect procedures and/or diagnosis for member's age, duplicates, incorrect modifier usage, and other billing irregularities. They consider state and federal laws and regulations, provider contracts, billing histories, and fee schedules in making determinations of claims payment appropriateness. If necessary, a clinician of like specialty may also review specific cases to determine if billing is appropriate. Auditors issue an audit results letter to each provider upon completion of the audit, which includes a claims report which identifies all records reviewed during the audit. If the Auditor determines that clinical documentation does not support the claims payment in some or all circumstances, Peach State Health Plan will seek recovery of all overpayments.

Depending on the number of services provided during the review period, Peach State Health Plan may calculate the overpayment using an extrapolation methodology. Extrapolation is the use of statistical sampling to calculate and project overpayment amounts. It is used by Medicare Program Safeguard Contractors, CMS Recovery Audit Contractors, and Medicaid Fraud Control Units in calculating overpayments, and is recommended by the OIG in its Provider Self-Disclosure Protocol (63 Fed. Reg. 58,399; Oct. 30, 1998). To ensure accurate application of the extrapolated methodology, Centene uses RAT-STATS 2007 Version 2, the OIG's statistical software tool, to select random samples, assist in evaluating audit results, and calculate projected overpayments.

Providers who contest the overpayment methodology or wish to calculate an exact overpayment figure may request a full, on-site chart audit of all services rendered during the review period. A full chart audit may take four to eight weeks to complete. On-site audits are performed by Peach State Health Plan's contracted vendor, HMS. Per the terms of your contract, you may be liable for the cost of an on-site audit.

Audit findings are reported to the Department of Community Health and may also be reported to the Georgia Healthcare Fraud Control Unit.

Additional information regarding Peach State Health Plan's Waste, Fraud, and Abuse program may be found in the Provider Manual. To report wasteful, abusive, or fraudulent activity, please contact Peach State Health Plan's Confidential Hotline at 1-866-685-8664.

## Quality Improvement

### Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI)

The scope of Peach State Health Plan's Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program is comprehensive, addressing both the quality of clinical care and the quality of non-clinical aspects of service. **The scope of the QAPI Program ensures that all demographic groups, care settings, and services are included in QAPI activities. The scope may include, but is not limited to, monitoring of the following:**

- Compliance with preventive health guidelines and clinical practice guidelines.
- Acute and chronic care management.
- Behavioral healthcare.
- Continuity and coordination of care.
- Under and over utilization.
- Appointment availability.
- After hours telephone accessibility.
- Member satisfaction.
- Provider satisfaction.
- Complaints and appeals.
- Performance monitoring and performance improvement projects of clinical and service related measures.

Additional information on the QAPI Program is available [online](#). Providers may also call 1-866-874-0633 to request hard copies of Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) documents.

### Health Management Program Needs Analysis

In order to ensure that Peach State Health Plan provides care to all demographic groups, the program includes monitoring and evaluation of healthcare services provided to Peach State members, including those members having special needs. **The demographic and health characteristics, including disease categories and risk status of the membership, are reported and analyzed to guide the monitoring and evaluation of clinical issues. Indicators are selected and monitored for a variety of demographic groups including:**

- Infants and children
- Pregnant women
- Adult males and females
- High-risk members

The first step of our assessment methodology includes the analysis of demographic and health profiles of our membership including high volume diagnoses, age and gender analysis, language analysis and ethnicity analysis.

## **This analysis is conducted at least annually and includes:**

- Age/sex/race distribution.
- Hospitalizations by principal diagnosis or DRG.
- Hospitalizations or post-hospitalization outcomes (e.g., re-admissions, complications).
- Primary care visits by principal diagnosis.
- Specialty visits by principal diagnosis.
- Prescriptions by therapeutic category.
- Complaints and appeals by type.
- Member satisfaction surveys.

The demographic and health profile is presented to the Performance Oversight Steering Committee (POSC) and/or the Quality Oversight Committee (QOC) for review. This profile is utilized in the selection of study topics relevant to the members served by Peach State Health Plan.

**In addition to the annual demographic analysis, Peach State Health Plan monitors and evaluates the care received by members in all care settings. To accomplish this review Peach State Health Plan audits the various types of care settings, including:**

- Inpatient hospitalization.
- Ambulatory care.
- Physician office (primary and specialty).
- Home care.

## **Performance Improvement Process**

The Peach State Health Plan Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program allows for continuous performance of quality improvement activities, and has established mechanisms to track issues over time.

Annually, Peach State Health Plan develops a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Work Plan for the upcoming year. The QAPI Work Plan serves as a working document to guide quality improvement efforts on a continuous basis. The Work Plan integrates QAPI activities, reporting and studies from all areas of the organization (clinical and service) and includes timelines for completion and reporting to the POSC and/or Quality Oversight Committee (QOC) as well as requirements for external reporting. Studies and other performance measurement activities and issues to be tracked over time are scheduled in the QAPI Work Plan.

The QAPI Work Plan is used by Peach State Health Plan to manage projects and by the clinical quality committees, sub-committees and Peach State Board of Directors to monitor progress. The Work Plan is modified and enhanced throughout the year and updates are provided to the POSC and/or QOC. Modifications are reported to the Board of Directors and other appropriate committees. Additionally, Peach State Health Plan tracks open issues to ensure follow-up of specific issues or corrective actions requiring tracking over time. The QAPI Work Plan is used by Peach State Health Plan to prepare agendas for the QOC to ensure continued follow-up of issues and corrective action plans.

## **Provider Review**

The QAPI Program includes review of processes followed in the provision of health services, through oversight of the Quality Oversight Committee (QOC). The QOC contains participating physicians from varying specialty areas including Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Psychiatry. The ad hoc members of the QOC include representatives from other departments of Peach State Health Plan.

## **Feedback on Physician Specific Performance**

As part of the re-credentialing process, performance data on each provider is reviewed and evaluated by the Credentialing Committee. **This review of provider specific performance data may include, but is not limited to:**

- Site evaluation results including medical record audit, appointment availability, afterhours access, cultural proficiency and in office waiting time.

- Preventive care, including EPSDT preventive medical exams, immunizations, lead screening, and screening for detection of kidney disease.
- Prenatal care.
- Complaint and appeal data.
- Utilization management data including referrals/1000 and bed days/1000 reports.
- Sentinel events, potential quality of care and/or adverse outcomes.
- Compliance with clinical practice guidelines.
- Compliance and Grievances.

## Feedback of Aggregate Results

Aggregate results of studies and guideline compliance audits may be presented to the QOC. Participating physician members of the QOC provide input into action plans and serve as a liaison with physicians in the community.

At least annually, a provider relations specialist meets with primary care providers and high volume specialists to review policies, guidelines, indicators, medical record standards, and provide feedback of audit/study results. These sessions are also an opportunity for providers to suggest revisions to existing materials and recommend priorities for further initiatives. When a guideline, indicator, or standard is developed in response to a documented quality of care deficiency, Peach State Health Plan disseminates the materials through an in-service training program to upgrade providers' knowledge and skills. The Peach State Health Plan Medical Directors and Pharmacist also conduct special training and meetings to assist physicians and other providers with quality and service improvement efforts.

## Quality Oversight Committees

The Peach State Health Plan Board of Directors is the governing body for Peach State Health Plan. The Board of Directors has ultimate responsibility for quality improvement and meets regularly to review and act upon reports reflecting the status of QAPI Program implementation.

In Peach State Health Plan's QAPI Program approved by the Peach State Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has designated the QOC and the Sr. Vice President of Medical Affairs/Chief Medical Director to provide oversight of the Peach State Health Plan QAPI Work Program.

### **Governing body responsibilities for monitoring, evaluating, and making improvements to care and service include:**

- Review, evaluate, and approve the QAPI Program description, the QAPI Work Plan and the annual QAPI Program Evaluation.
- Review regular reports delineating actions taken and improvements made as part of the QAPI Program.
- Ensure that the QAPI Program and QAPI Work Plan are implemented effectively and result in improvements in care and service.
- Provide written feedback to the Plan as appropriate, when program goals are not being met.

The QAPI Program Description delineates the structure and personnel responsible for performing QAPI functions within the organization. **The Program's Committee structure consists of the following committees and subcommittees:**

- Utilization Management Committee
- Delegated Vendor Oversight Committee
- Health Equity & Diversity Committee
- Member and Community Advisory Board
- Provider Advisory Committee
- Performance Oversight Steering Committee
- Peer Review Committee

These committees meet on a regular basis in order to oversee QAPI Program activities and allow sufficient follow-up on findings and required actions. The Chairperson of each committee may increase or decrease the frequency based on findings and resolutions.

## Waste Abuse and Fraud (WAF) System

Peach State Health Plan takes the detection, investigation, and prosecution of fraud and abuse very seriously, and has a WAF program that complies with state and federal laws. Peach State Health Plan, in conjunction with its management company, Centene Corporation, successfully operates a billing errors/waste, abuse and fraud unit. If you suspect or witness a provider inappropriately billing or a member receiving inappropriate services, please call our anonymous and confidential hotline at 1-866-685-8664. Peach State Health Plan and/or Centene take all reports of potential waste, abuse or fraud very seriously and investigate all reported issues.

## Authority and Responsibility

The Peach State Health Plan Vice President of Compliance has overall responsibility and authority for carrying out the provisions of the compliance program.

Peach State Health Plan is committed to identifying, investigating, sanctioning and prosecuting suspected fraud and abuse.

The Peach State Health Plan provider network must cooperate fully in making personnel and/or subcontractor personnel available in person for interviews, consultation, grand jury proceedings, pre-trial conferences, hearings, trials and in any other process, including investigations, at Peach State Health Plan or the subcontractor's own expense.

**These are the primary agencies to which incidents or practices of abuse and/or fraud are to be reported:**

### **Peach State Health Plan Office of Compliance**

1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
Atlanta, GA 30339

### **Department of Community Health**

Office of Inspector General, Program Integrity Unit  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE  
East Tower, 19th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
1-800-533-0686  
1-404-463-7590

## Member Services

Peach State Health Plan is committed to providing its members with information about the health benefits that are available to them through the Peach State Health Plan program. Peach State Health Plan encourages members to take responsibility for their healthcare by providing them with basic information to assist them with making decisions about their healthcare choices.

Peach State Health Plan has developed targeted programs to address the needs of its members. Members may attend classes; receive specific disease management bulletins and treatment updates, appointment reminder cards, and informational mailings.

As a provider for Peach State Health Plan, please remember that it is your obligation to identify any Peach State Health Plan member who requires translation, interpretation, or sign language services. Peach State Health Plan will pay for these services whenever you need them to effectively communicate with a Peach State Health Plan member. Peach State Health Plan members are not to be held liable for these services. To arrange for any of the above services, please call the Peach State Health Plan Provider Services Department at **1-866-874-0633**.

## Drivers of Health Program

The Drivers of Health department (DoH) utilizes Social Workers, Certified Community Health Workers, and Care Coordinators to assess and respond to the needs of members and the community. Our programs include:

### **Social Work Care Management:**

- Assessing and coordinating care management activities based on member needs
- Providing assistance with finding resources in the community
- Onsite visits to assess members needs and collaborate with providers
- Educating member on benefit options available to improve health care access
- Prenatal education and care coordination
- Assistance with finding a pediatrician
- Assistance with scheduling newborn and postpartum follow-up appointments
- Postpartum depression screenings
- Post-hospital follow-up services
- Individualized care planning with members and their complex social needs

### **Community Resource Coordination:**

- Educational outreach regarding benefits, rights, and responsibilities
- Counseling on preventive care, appropriate levels of care, risk factors, and non-compliance issues
- Assistance with scheduling appointments
- Health Coaching, preventive care education and support
- Interactive community events, such as baby showers and healthy lifestyle events
- Cultural mediation between communities and health and human services
- Advocacy for individual and community needs

### **Community Connections Help Line (CCHL):**

- A national, toll-free helpline for members, non-members, and providers
- Peer coaches conduct a social needs assessment, provide community resource referrals, and will follow up to ensure all needs are met
- Identification of areas of opportunity in communities where resources are lacking

Providers are asked to refer a member identified with social barriers, such as food insecurity, homelessness, or other needs, to our Social Determinants of Health department. A team member will assess the member's needs and connect the member with resources in the community. Providers can make a referral to our SDOH Department using the Social Determinants of Health Provider Referral Form.

This form can be accessed through the Provider Web Portal or by calling the Care Management Department at 1-800-504-8573. Members, non-members, and providers may call the Community Connections Help Line at 1-866-775-2192 for additional community resource needs.

## Find Help

A self-help online community tool that is available to offer Providers access to a database to address social determinants of health needs for food, housing, utilities, financial assistance, transportation, and clothing, etc. It allows the health plan to exchange and store community referrals from local and national Community Based Organizations (CBO's) by the member's local area, zip code and their social need. It can be accessed at <https://peachstatehealthplan.findhelp.com/>.

Providers can make referrals directly to our Social Determinants of Health Department for any member identified with social barriers, such as food insecurity, homelessness, or for suspected non-compliance with medical due to needs. These referrals can be sent utilizing the following options:

- Secure Provider Web Portal via the link: <https://www.pshpgeorgia.com/providers/resources/forms-resources/chs-provider-referral-form.html>
- Contacting a member of the Social Determinant Health Department at 1-800-504-8573

## Member Materials

Members will receive various pieces of information from Peach State Health Plan through mailings and through face-to-face contact. These materials are printed in English and Spanish and can be requested in Spanish or other languages identified by the state. **These materials include:**

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Targeted Disease Management Brochures
- Provider Directory
- **Member Handbook which includes:**
  - Benefit information, including pharmacy network information, transportation information, and so on
  - Member rights and responsibilities
- Nurse Advice Line information
- Emergency Room Information

**Providers interested in receiving any of these materials may contact:**

**Member Services Department**  
1-800-704-1484 • TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487

## Member Rights and Responsibilities

**Peach State Health Plan provides covered services to all members without regard to:**

- |                   |                         |                            |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Age            | 6. Income               | 11. Color                  |
| 2. Disability     | 7. Health Status        | 12. Birth Nation           |
| 3. Marital Status | 8. Arrest or Conviction | 13. Military Participation |
| 4. Race           | 9. Religion             | 14. Language               |
| 5. Sex            | 10. Sexual Preference   |                            |

All services that are covered and medically necessary may be obtained. All services are provided in the same way to all members.

Peach State Health Plan providers who refer members for care do so the same way for all.

Translation services are available if you need them. This includes sign language. This service is free.

### **The right to appeal any denied service according to state guidelines.**

**The Member has the right:**

- To have all your personal information including your medical records kept private.
- To be given choices about your healthcare.
- To know all of your options.
- To never worry about someone forcing you to do something because it makes his or her job easier.
- To talk with your doctor about your medical records; ask for and receive a copy of your medical records;

ask for a summary of your record; request that your medical records be changed or corrected; and have your records kept private.

- 1. Requests must be received in writing from the Member or the person they choose to represent them
- 2. The records will be provided at no cost
- 3. They will be sent within 14 days of receipt of the request
- To be able to request information on the Quality Assessment Performance Improvement Program (QAPI). The QAPI program assures that all members receive quality care and appropriate care. The QAPI program focuses on improving clinical care and non-clinical care which will result in positive health outcomes.
- To file a complaint against a doctor, hospital, the service/care you received, or Peach State Health Plan. If you file a complaint, no one can stop you from continuing to get services.
- To file an appeal when you are unhappy about the outcome of a complaint or decision.
- To know how to file an appeal for a decision not to pay for a service or limit coverage.
- To know that you or your doctor will not be penalized for filing a complaint or appeal.
- To not pay if Peach State Health Plan runs out of money to pay their bills.
- To not pay for healthcare even if Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids and Peach State Health Plan does not pay the doctor who treated you.
- To have medical services available to you under your Peach State Health Plan plan in accordance to 42 CFR 438.20 through 438.210 which are the federal QAPI access standards.
- To be free from any Peach State Health Plan debts in the event of insolvency and liability for covered services in which the state does not pay Peach State Health Plan.
- To never pay more than what Peach State Health Plan would charge, if Peach State Health Plan has to have someone else manage your care.
- To only have a small co-payment and/or deductible, as allowed by state laws and DCH regulations as described in the Member Handbook.
- **To only be billed by a provider if you have agreed to the following:**
  - You signed a Member Acknowledgement Statement which makes you responsible for services not covered by Peach State Health Plan.
  - You agreed ahead of time to pay for services that are not covered by Peach State Health Plan or Medicaid.
  - You agreed ahead of time to pay for services from a provider who is not in the network and/or did not receive a prior authorization ahead of time, and requested the service anyway.
- To not be billed for any service covered by Medicaid. If you get a bill for services Peach State Health Plan should have paid, call Member Services at 1-800-704-1484. **When you call, give the Member Services Staff:**
  - Date of service.
  - Total amount of the bill.
  - Name of provider.
  - Phone number on the bill.
- To be free from receiving bills from providers for medically needed services that were authorized or covered by Peach State Health Plan.
- To be treated with dignity, respect and privacy from Peach State Health Plan staff, providers, physicians and their office staff.
- To have access to a PCP 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for urgent care.
- To choose a Peach State Health Plan doctor (PCP) and be told which hospitals to use.
- To change your doctor without a reason.

- To know about other doctors who can help you with treatment.
- To know your rights and responsibilities with Peach State Health Plan and to call if you have questions or comments or want to make recommendations about our member rights and responsibilities policy.
- To get information about Peach State Health Plan's organization and services, providers, physicians, hospitals, policies and procedures, your rights and responsibilities and any changes made.
- To get a second opinion
- To know about all the services you will get. This includes:
  - Hours of operation.
  - How to get emergency care after hours.
  - How to get services if you are out of town.
  - What may not be covered.
  - What has limited coverage.
- To be told if your services change. To be told if we cancel a service.
- To be told if your doctor is no longer available.
- To tell us and your doctor if you need help talking to your doctor. You will not have to pay if you are hearing impaired or if you do not speak English.
- To know all information about your doctor(s) so they can care for you.
- To tell your doctor what you like and don't like about your care.
- To speak with your physician about decisions related to your health care including the right to refuse medical or surgical treatment to the extent of the law and to refuse to take part in medical research.
- To help set treatment plans with your physician, talk to your physician openly and understand your health care options: regardless of cost or benefit coverage.
- To understand your health problems and to speak with your physician about your treatment plans which you and your doctor agree.
- Decide ahead of time the kind of care you want if you become sick, injured or seriously ill by making a living will or advance directive.
- Decide ahead time the person you want to make decisions about your care if you are not able to by making a durable power of attorney.
- To be free from any form of restraint or seclusion as a means of force, discipline, convenience or revenge.
- To exercise these rights. Also, to know if you do, it will not change how you are treated by the plan, its doctors and providers.

### **Member Responsibilities – The member has a responsibility:**

- To give information about yourself to the Peach State Health Plan organization, providers, physicians, and hospitals in order to help set treatment goals.
- To give information about you and your health to your PCP.
- To understand your health problems and how to take your medicines the right way.
- To ask questions about your health care.
- To follow your instructions for care agreed upon by you and your physician or hospital.
- To help set treatment goals with your PCP.
- To read the Member Handbook to understand how [Peach State Health Plan] works.
- To call Peach State Health Plan and ask questions when you don't understand.
- To always carry your Peach State Health Plan Member ID card.

- To always carry your Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids Member ID card.
- To show your ID cards to each provider.
- To schedule appointments for care with your doctor.
- To go to the emergency room when you have an emergency.
- To notify Peach State Health Plan as soon as possible if you go to the emergency room.
- To get a referral from your PCP for specialty care.
- To cooperate with people providing your health care.
- To be on time for appointments.
- To notify the doctor's office if you need to cancel an appointment.
- To notify the doctor's office if you need to change your appointment time.
- To respect the rights of all providers.
- To respect the property of all providers.
- To respect the rights of other patients.
- To not be disruptive in your doctor's office.
- To keep all your appointments. To be on time and cancel within twenty-four (24) hours if you cannot make it.
- To treat your provider with dignity and respect.

## Member Grievances

A grievance is an expression of dissatisfaction about any matter other than a adverse benefit determination. A member or member's authorized representative may file a grievance at any time, either orally or in writing. Peach State Health Plan will notify the member or authorized representative that the grievance has been received in writing within 10 calendar days of receipt of the grievance. A provider cannot file a grievance on behalf of a member without the member's written consent. Members or their authorized representative may file a grievance by contacting Member Services at: 1-800-704-1484 or by submitting written notification to:

**Peach State Health Plan**  
**Grievance and Appeals Coordinator**  
 1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1100  
 Atlanta, GA. 30339  
 Fax # 1-866-532-8855

Peach State Health Plan will resolve all issues raised by members within 90 calendar days of receipt of the grievance.

## Special Services to Assist With Members

Peach State Health Plan has designed its programs and trained its staff to ensure that each member's cultural needs are considered in carrying out Peach State Health Plan operations. Providers should remain cognizant of the diverse Peach State Health Plan population. Members' needs may vary depending on their gender, ethnicity, age, beliefs, etc. We ask that you recognize these needs in serving your members. Peach State Health Plan is always available to assist your office in providing the best care possible to the members.

There are several services that are also available to the members to assist with their everyday needs. Members can contact the below number to obtain information about these services.

**Member Services Department**  
 1-800-704-1484 • TDD/TTY 1-800-659-7487

## Interpreter/Translation Services

Peach State Health Plan is committed to ensuring that staff and subcontractors are educated about, remain aware of, and are sensitive to the linguistic needs and cultural differences of its members. **In order to meet this need, Peach State Health Plan is committed to the following:**

- Having individuals available who are trained professional interpreters for Spanish and American Sign Language, and who will be available on site or via telephone to assist providers with discussing technical, medical, or treatment information with members as needed.
- Providing free Language Line services that will be available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week in 140 languages to assist providers and members in communicating with each other when there are no other translators available for the language.
- In-person interpreter services are made available when Peach State Health Plan is notified in advance of the member's scheduled appointment in order to allow for a more positive encounter between the member and provider; telephonic services are available for those encounters involving urgent/emergent situations, as well as nonurgent/emergent appointments as requested at no charge to the member.
- Providing TTY access for members who are hearing impaired through 1-800-659-7487.
- Peach State Health Plan's medical advice line, Nurse Advice Line, provides 24 hour access, seven days a week for interpretation of Spanish or the coordination of non-English/Spanish needs via the Language Line.
- Providing or making available Peach State Health Plan Member Services and Health Education materials in alternative formats as needed to meet the needs of the members, such as audio tapes or language translation; all alternative methods must be requested by the member or designee.

Providers must call Member Services at 1-800-704-1484 if interpreter services are needed. Please have the member's ID number; date/time service is requested and any other documentation that would assist in scheduling interpreter services.

## Nurse Advice Line

Our members have many questions about their health, their primary care provider and access to emergency care. Our health plan offers a nurse triage service to encourage members to talk with their physician and to promote education and preventive care.

Nurse Advice Line is our 24-hour nurse line for members. The Registered Nurses provide basic health education, nurse triage and answer questions about urgent or emergency access, all day long.

The staff often answers questions about pregnancy and newborn care. In addition, members with chronic problems, like asthma or diabetes, are referred to care management for education and encouragement to improve their health.

Members may use Nurse Advice Line to request information about providers and services available in your community after the health plan is closed. Providers can use it to verify eligibility any time of the day. The Nurse Advice Line staff is conversant in both English and Spanish and can offer the Language Line for additional translation services. The nurses document their calls in a web-based data system using Barton Schmitt, M.D. triage protocols for pediatrics and McKesson proprietary suite of products to perform triage services for adults. These protocols are widely used in nurse call centers and have been reviewed and approved by physicians from around the country.

We provide this service to support your practice and offer our members' access to a RN every day. If you have any additional questions, please call Provider Services or Nurse Advice Line at **1-800-704-1484**.

# Provider Relations Assistance

## Provider Relations Department

The Provider Relations Department at Peach State Health Plan is designed around the concept of making your experience with Peach State a positive one by being your advocate within Peach State Health Plan. **Provider Relations is responsible for providing the services listed below which include but are not limited to:**

- Contracting.
- Maintenance of existing Peach State Health Plan Provider Manual.
- Eligibility distribution.
- Development of alternative reimbursement strategies.
- Researching of trends in claims inquiries to the Peach State Health Plan.
- Pool settlement updates/status.
- Network performance profiling.
- Individual physician performance profiling.
- Physician and office staff orientation.
- Hospital and ancillary staff orientation.
- Ongoing provider education, updates, and training.

The goal of this department is to furnish you and your staff with the necessary tools to provide the highest quality of healthcare to Peach State Health Plan enrolled membership. To contact the provider relations specialist for your area contact:

**Provider Services Department: 1-866-874-0633**

The Provider Services toll free help line staff is available to you and your staff to answer questions, listen to your concerns, assist with members, respond to your Peach State Health Plan inquiries, connect you to the Peach State Health Plan Provider Relations Specialist for your area, etc.

Provider Services Representatives are dedicated to serving the Peach State Health Plan provider network. Provider Services Representatives work with Provider Relations Specialists to serve as your advocates to ensure that you receive necessary assistance and maintain satisfaction with Peach State Health Plan.

## Integrated Behavioral and Physical Health Provider Education & Training

Peach State Health Plan makes outreach to new providers, groups, and facilities to offer an initial orientation within thirty (30) calendar days of being placed on active status. Additional trainings are provided, upon request, to all providers and their staff regarding the requirements of their contract and special needs of the enrollees. Peach State Health Plan shall also conduct ongoing trainings, as deemed necessary by Peach State Health Plan or the Georgia Department of Community Health, in order to ensure compliance with program standards and their contract. Peach State Health Plan will post information, updates, bulletins, and other pertinent information on its website.

Peach State Health Plan partners with provider to overcome the challenge of finding time to attend trainings and educational opportunities by offering online clinical education through Relias Learning. All Relias Learning courses are free of charge and available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Many of the Relias Learning courses offer Continued Educational Credits (CEUs), and there is no limit to the number of online courses that Peach State Health Plan providers are permitted to take. For information and a complete course catalog, please log in or sign up for Relias Learning.

Relias Learning offers online learning, staff compliance training and continuing education for behavioral health,

mental health, addiction treatment, community health, developmental disability, community action and child welfare organizations.

Additionally, Peach State Health Plan's provider training staff provide regular scheduled webinars and are available to come to medical and behavioral health provider offices to offer clinical and quality of care training on best practices and quality guidelines. The link below leads providers to a listing of upcoming trainings and contact information for Peach State Health Plan's Provider Behavioral Health Trainers.

- **EngageU:** Select GA and scroll to bottom of the page for upcoming trainings.

## Clinical Training

In support of quality services to members, Peach State Health Plan will offer a variety of clinical training opportunities to providers. **The Clinical Training program is committed to achieving the following goals:**

- Promote provider competence and opportunities for skill-enhancement
- Promote Recovery & Resiliency
- Sustain and expand the use of Evidence Based practices (e.g., Cultural Competency, Motivational Interviewing, Integrated Healthcare, Mental Health First Aid, Substance Use Overview, SBIRT)
- Assist in providing at least two (2) hours annually to providers and behavioral health staff on topics related to suicide risk assessment, prevention and post-vention strategies

Clinical trainings for providers will be offered at various times throughout the year. Network providers can also contact Peach State Health Plan to request additional clinical trainings or topics specific to your organization. Clinical trainings may be offered live or in a webinar format.

## Provider Network Participation

Peach State Health Plan contracts with behavioral health solo practitioners, groups, Community Service Boards (CSB), Comprehensive Medicaid Providers (CMP), Specialty Providers, Certified Peer Support Specialty Agencies, and hospitals/facilities that consistently meet or exceed Peach State Health Plan's clinical quality standards and are compliant with State, Federal and care management organization credentialing and clinical practice guidelines. This includes an understanding of Peach State Health Plan covered benefits and utilization under managed Behavioral Health care.

**In July 2017, the State of Georgia and Peach State Health Plan expanded the behavioral health provider network to include the following:**

- In-network psychiatrists who agree to serve as PCPs for members who have a primary diagnosis of a Severe Persistent Mental Illness. If a psychiatrist would like to serve as a PCP for a member, they can contact Provider Relations for the submittal process or fill submit an application through the Join Our Network webpage located under provider resources on the Peach State Health Plan website.

Peach State Health Plan contracts with providers with the capacity to serve as a Behavioral Health Home and who meet the minimum State, Federal and health plan standards for Behavioral Health Homes. The Behavioral Health Home is an integrated model of care intended to serve members that meet clinical criteria and have coexisting medical, mental health and substance use conditions requiring care management. Participating Behavioral Health Homes will provide care coordination services, comprehensive care management, health promotion and coaching; health information/ education; preventative health; mental health and substance abuse services; comprehensive transitional care; patient and family support; community linkage; and interdisciplinary care plan meetings. If you are interested in learning more about participating in the Behavioral Health Home program, contact Provider Relations.

New providers will receive a welcome letter and a copy of their fully executed agreement with Peach State Health

Plan once they are admitted into the network and are eligible to begin providing services to members. The agreement will indicate the provider's effective date in the network, the initial term and renewal term provisions in Peach State Health Plan's provider network. The agreement will also indicate the cancellation/termination policies. There is no "right to appeal" when either party chooses not to renew the agreement. New providers must have an active contract and received their Welcome Letter before beginning to provide services to Peach State Health Plan members. New contracted providers will be offered a New Provider Orientation that will provide an overview of Peach State Health Plan's programs, policies and procedures. Providers can also request a New Provider Orientation at any time after receiving a Welcome Letter and Executed Network Agreement.

**The provider network may consist of the following types of providers:**

- FQHCs & RHCs
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Licensed Professional Counselors Licensed Clinical Social Workers Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Hospitals & Facilities
- Mental Health ARNPs
- Community Service Boards
- Comprehensive Community Providers
- Community Medicaid Providers
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Medical Surgical Psychiatric Units
- Partial Hospitalization Programs
- Intensive Outpatient Programs
- Specialty Providers
- Mental Health ARNPs
  - Intensive Family Intervention Providers
  - Care Management Entities
  - Youth, Adult and Family Peer Support Providers
  - Assertive Community Treatment

Peach State Health Plan contracts its provider network to support and meet the linguistic, cultural and other unique needs of the members we serve. This includes the capacity to communicate with members in other languages other than English and with members who are deaf or hearing impaired.

## Pharmacy

The Peach State Health Plan preferred drug list (PDL) is designed to assist contracted healthcare prescribers with selecting the most clinically and cost-effective medications available. **The Peach State Health Plan PDL does not:**

- a) Require or prohibit the prescribing or dispensing of any medication.
- b) Substitute for the professional judgment of the physician or pharmacist.
- c) Relieve the physician or pharmacist of any obligation to the member.

The Peach State Health Plan PDL will be approved initially by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T), with

support from community-based primary care providers and specialists. Once established, the Peach State Health Plan preferred drug list will be maintained by the P&T Committee, using quarterly meetings, to ensure that Peach State Health Plan members receive the most appropriate medications.

The Peach State Health Plan PDL contains those medications that the P&T Committee has chosen based on their safety and effectiveness. If a physician feels that a certain medication merits addition to the list, a letter of request can be faxed to 1-833-743-1307 for consideration. The Peach State Health Plan P&T Committee would review the request, along with supporting clinical data, to determine if the drug meets the safety and efficacy standards established by the committee. Some self-administered injectable medications are included on the Peach State Health Plan PDL and may require prior authorization. Copies of the PDL are available on our website, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com). Providers may also call 1-866-874-0633 to request hard copies of the PDL.

## Continuity of Care: Transition Fill

Peach State Health Plan is committed to maintaining continuity of care for its members, especially with the pharmacy benefit. For those members moving to Peach State Health Plan from Medicaid FFS or another CMO who are currently stabilized on medications not listed in the Peach State Health Plan PDL, Peach State Health Plan will allow those members to initially continue receiving those medications as Peach State Health Plan members for the first 30 days of membership. This 30 day period is provided to allow the physician time to prescribe an alternative medication that is included in the Peach State Health Plan PDL or to request prior authorization for the member to remain on the current drug.

## Injectables

Self-administered injectables that are included in the Peach State Health Plan PDL are covered under the Peach State Health Plan pharmacy program. Provider-administered specialty injectables such as Synagis or Xolair need to be prior authorized by Peach State Health Plan before administering to the member. Most self-administered specialty pharmaceuticals are dispensed by a specialty pharmacy. To determine if a specialty injectable drug requires authorization, please check the Preferred Drug List or the Pre-Auth Needed tool on our website, [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com).

## Psychotropic Medications

Peach State Health Plan will monitor psychotropic medication usage to identify any medications for physical conditions prescribed by psychiatric practitioners as well as to review psychotropic medications prescribed by primary care providers (PCPs).

A comprehensive evaluation to include a thorough health history, psychosocial assessment, mental status exam, and physical exam should be performed before beginning treatment for a mental or behavioral disorder.

The role of non-pharmacological interventions should be considered before beginning a psychotropic medication, except in urgent situations such as suicidal ideation, psychosis, self-injurious behavior, physical aggression that is acutely dangerous to others, severe impulsivity endangering the member or others, or when there is marked disturbance of psycho-physiological functioning (such as profound sleep disturbance), marked anxiety, isolation, or withdrawal. For children and adolescents under the age of 17, HEDIS guidelines require that psychosocial care be used as a first-treatment when clinically appropriate.

## Non-Covered Drugs

**The following drugs and medical services are not a part of the Peach State Health Plan Pharmacy benefit:**

### Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions

- Drugs used for anorexia, weight gain, or obesity.

- Drugs used to promote fertility or infertility.
- Drugs prescribed for any non FDA approved indication, unless there is compelling clinical evidence to support the experimental use.
- Prescription vitamin and mineral products except prenatal vitamins for women, fluoride preparations that are not in combination with other vitamins and children’s multiple vitamins with fluoride for members ≤ 21 years of age.
- Nonprescription drugs (Over-the-Counter) except for those listed on the Peach State Health Plan Preferred Drug List (PDL). Those listed on the PDL will be covered if the doctor writes a prescription for the drug (see examples below):
  - Generic Multivitamins < 21 years of age.
  - Generic Multivitamins w/Iron < 21 years of age.
  - Generic Ibuprofen suspension < 21 years of age.
  - Enteric coated aspirin.
  - Pin-X.
  - Generic OTC Diphenhydramine.
  - Insulin, insulin syringes and urine test strips.
  - Generic OTC Iron.
  - Lice treatment.
  - Generic OTC Meclizine.
  - Generic OTC non-sedating antihistamines (Loratadine and Cetirizine).
  - Generic OTC H2 receptor antagonists.
  - Generic OTC topical antifungals.
  - Generic OTC proton pump inhibitors.
- Topical vitamin A derivatives for members ≥ 21 years of age.
- Drugs to treat sexual or erectile dysfunction.
- Drugs identified by CMS as less than effective (DESI) or drugs that may have been determined to be identical, similar or related.
- Medical supplies and DME (except those listed in the PDL).
- Topical Minoxidil or any other drug used for hair growth.
- Nutritional and Dietary supplements(unless listed on the PDL).

## Medical Pharmacy Benefits

- Peach State Health Plan members over the age of 19 can receive vaccinations as a medical benefit through their physician or at a participating retail pharmacy. For more information on retail pharmacy vaccinations and ImmunityConnect, visit the Pharmacy page of the website at [www.pshp.com](http://www.pshp.com).
- Botox is a medical pharmacy benefit covered with a prior authorization for non-cosmetic purposes only.
- Blood and blood products are medical benefits.

Injectable drugs provided in a physician’s office may require prior authorization and are not covered under the retail pharmacy benefit. These injectables must be billed on a physician claim.

## Prior Authorization

Any drug not appearing on the PDL will require Prior Authorization from Pharmacy Services.

For prior authorization call 1-866-399-0928 or or submit online at [CoverMyMeds.com](http://CoverMyMeds.com), or fax a prior authorization form to 1-833-582-2342. In the event Pharmacy Services is unavailable, or while waiting for a prior authorization determination, the pharmacy may request an immediate authorization to dispense an emergency 72-hour supply of the prescribed drug. Prior authorization requests will be answered by Pharmacy Services within twenty-four (24) hours. Please refer to the Notice of Proposed Action Letter for instructions if a pharmacy prior authorization needs to be resubmitted, how to request a Peer-to-Peer conversation or to initiate the provider appeals process.

Some Medical Pharmacy or Provider Administered Injections require a prior authorization request be faxed for review

to Pharmacy Services at **1-866-374-1579**. Injectable HCPCS which require prior authorization can be located on the [pshp.com](http://pshp.com) website under the online Pre-Auth Tool.

## Pharmacy Lock-In Program

Peach State Health Plan is required to have a Lock-In program by the Department of Community Health (DCH). The Lock-In program is for the protection of our members. Peach State Health Plan reviews members that receive medical services. This review makes sure that benefits are used properly. **In our review, we look to see if members have any of the following:**

- Prescriptions written on a stolen, fake, or changed prescription blank.
- Prescribed drugs that should not be used for the member's medical condition.
- Member has filled prescriptions at more than two pharmacies per month or more than five pharmacies per year.
- Member receives more than five different drugs per month.
- Member receives more than three controlled drugs (examples: pain medicine, medicine to help sleep, and medicine to control attention deficit disorder) per month.
- Member gets two or more drugs that work the same way from different providers.
- Member receives prescriptions from more than two doctors per month.
- Member has been seen in hospital emergency room more than two times per year.
- Member has diagnosis of drug poisoning or drug abuse on file.
- Number of prescriptions for controlled drugs exceeds 10 % of total number of prescriptions.

We receive information from providers and DCH. Pharmacies may also tell us about members that may need to have their use of drugs reviewed. If the member has one or more of the items above the member will be assigned to one pharmacy to fill all drugs. The member may also be restricted to one doctor to write for controlled drugs.

Members placed into the Pharmacy Lock-In Program will receive a letter detailing the pharmacy and or controlled substance prescriber that is selected for them. A copy of this notice is also sent to the Primary Care Physician on file, the Lock-In Pharmacy, and the Controlled Substance Prescriber.

This program lasts at least one year. Having one pharmacy fill all prescriptions can prevent a member from being harmed by drugs that do not work together.

### **We expect all pharmacies who manage lock-in patients to uphold the following:**

- Verify controlled substance prescriptions by phone when multiple physicians are involved in the patient's care.
- Do not allow early refills on controlled substances.
- Make sure that all physicians writing prescriptions for controlled substances know that other physicians are also writing prescriptions for controlled substances for the same patient. This may not apply if the member is restricted to one provider for controlled substance prescriptions.

If a member has moved and their Pharmacy or Medical Provider is no longer within driving distance from the new home, they should be sure DCH has updated their records with the new address. Members can call Peach State member services at 1-800-704-1484 and request a provider change based on the new location.

The member or provider, acting with member's written consent, may appeal this decision or file a grievance pertaining specifically to the pharmacy or physician.

## Value-Based Purchasing Program (VBP)

A VBP model is an enhanced approach to purchasing and program management that focuses on value over volume. It is part of a cohesive strategy that aligns incentives for Members, Providers, Peach State Health Plan and the State to achieve the program's overarching goals. The impact of initiatives is measured in terms of access, outcomes, quality of care and savings.

## Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN)

Peach State Health Plan has partnered with the Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare provided by our network providers. The GAHIN is a statewide health information exchange network that electronically connects Georgia hospitals, physicians and clinicians to safely and securely exchange patient health information.

### **Peach State Health Plan's partnership with the GaHIN will allow providers the ability to:**

- Access a national network of health information that allows providers to enhance continuity of care by enhancing patient care coordination between network providers.
- Access a more complete view of their patients' health information directly from their electronic health record (EHR) systems, including health and pharmacy information, and immunization updates and reporting from the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS) registry.
- Securely exchange health information clinical data with Peach State Health Plan reducing the administration burden associated with fax submissions.

To learn more about the GaHIN, visit [www.gahin.org](http://www.gahin.org). For additional information about Peach State Health Plan's partnership with the GaHIN, contact Peach State Health Plan Provider Services at 1-866-874-0633.







[pshp.com](https://www.pshp.com)

**Provider Services: 1-866-874-0633**  
(FAX: 1-800-659-7492)

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