



Georgia Medicaid Programs

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Georgia Medicaid Programs play a key role in funding the **Georgia Regional Perinatal Care Network (GRPCN)** along with state general revenue funds appropriated to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). GRPCN is managed under the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). An interagency agreement between the DPH and the Department of Community Health Medicaid program brings together the management of centers and the funding streams that are spread across both agencies.

The GRPCN provides approximately \$20 million in annual funds to six regional care centers for the care of high-risk mothers and infants. These six centers are designated based on regional need and available funding.¹ The GRPCN's funding comes from Medicaid, state funds appropriated to the DPH and state matched funds from the Georgia Department of Public Health. The funds are intended to support costs associated with maintaining infrastructure to support services.

The state Medicaid funds distributed by GRPCN are used for the direct costs of care for high-risk mothers and infants (maternal and infant benefits, and intensive infant benefits). These payments are designed to fill in the gaps between what is covered under Medicaid reimbursement and the cost of expensive high-risk services.² Additionally, the GRPCN funds pay the regional center administrative costs for outreach, education and transportation services, which are outlined by specific core requirements and guidelines put forth by the DPH. (Direct transportation services are reimbursed pursuant to state Medicaid policy.³)

Georgia also uses state Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant funds to support programs and initiatives focused on preventing infant mortality, including perinatal regionalization. They have identified improving the perinatal regionalization system as a priority need and have a contractual relationship with the six state regional perinatal centers. Looking ahead, the Georgia DPH is planning a perinatal regionalization strategic meeting in FY2016 to “develop consensus on the purpose and benefits of the perinatal regionalization system and identify areas to be improved.”⁴

Endnotes:

1. Georgia Department of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Section, Office of Family and Community Health, Perinatal Health Unit, “Core Requirements and Recommended Guidelines for Designated Regional Perinatal Centers,” (April 2013), http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/MCH/Core_Requirements_and_Guidelines_5.16.13_revised.pdf
2. “Medicaid Funding – The Georgia Regional Perinatal Care Network,” National Perinatal Information Center, Accessed August 24, 2016, <http://www.npic.org/projects/MedicaidFunding.php>
3. Find more information on Georgia's core requirements and recommended guidelines for their designated regional perinatal centers here: https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/MCH/Core_Requirements_and_Guidelines_5.16.13_revised.pdf
4. Georgia Department of Public Health, “Maternal and Child Health Service Title V Block Grant – Georgia, FY 2016 Application/FY 2014 Annual Report,” (March 2016), https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/uploadedfiles/2016/submittedFiles/printVersion/GA_TitleV_PrintVersion.pdf