

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director

Transmittal # 15-35

TO: To All Physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and Managed Care Plans

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, JD 
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: September 30, 2015

SUBJECT: **Medicaid Primary Care Provider Rate Permanent Extension for Qualified Physicians and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses**

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) has been reimbursing qualified primary care providers 100% of the Medicare fee schedule for certain primary care services, as established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In Fiscal Year 2016, upon approval of a new State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHCF will not only make this rate increase permanent, but will also reimburse qualified psychiatrists, OB-GYNs and APRNs at the enhanced rate for the same services.

DHCF intends to implement these changes effective October 1, 2015. However, we do not yet have CMS approval of the State Plan Amendment authorizing these payments. To avoid a reduction in payment to qualified practitioners while the SPA is being approved, DHCF will continue to reimburse 100% of the Medicare fee schedule for qualified services provided by physicians who are currently eligible for and receiving these reimbursements. We will implement the rate increase prospectively for psychiatrists, OB-GYNs and APRNs who qualify to receive these payments once the SPA is approved.

Although unlikely, in the event the extension of the rate increase is not approved by CMS, DHCF will need to recoup from current qualified practitioners, the difference between the Medicaid and Medicare rates.

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If you have questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Sumita Chaudhuri, Deputy Director, Medicaid Finance, Tel. No. 202-478-5925, Email: Sumita.chaudhuri@dc.gov.
