

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

**Transmittal # 15-43**

**TO:** Primary Care Physicians, Psychiatrists, Obstetricians/Gynecologists and  
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

**FROM:** Claudia Schlosberg, J.D.   
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

**DATE:** November 5, 2015

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

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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.

Previously, DHCF informed providers that to avoid a rate reduction, DHCF would continue to reimburse 100% of the Medicare fee schedule for qualified services provided by physicians who are currently eligible for and receiving these reimbursements and that we would implement the rate increase prospectively for psychiatrists, OB-GYNs and APRNs who qualify to receive these payments once the SPA is approved. However, because DHCF has not completed the required steps to publish the rates before implementing a rate increase, we must temporarily return the Medicaid rates for primary care physicians and APRNs to 80% of the Medicare rate. We anticipate completing this rate publication process before the end of the calendar year. This change is effective November 6, 2015.

DHCF will publish an emergency and proposed rule returning the rates to 100% of the Medicare fee schedule and adding psychiatrists, OB-GYNS and APRNS to the list of qualified providers. Upon approval of the new SPA, DHCF will effectuate the rate increase retroactively to the date of adoption of the emergency and proposed rule.

If you have questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Sumita Chaudhuri, Deputy Director for Medicaid Finance, at (202) 478-9525, or email to [Sumita.Chaudhuri@dc.gov](mailto:Sumita.Chaudhuri@dc.gov).