



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

March 20, 2013

Dear Colleague,

The State of Maryland and the federal government have made improving access to primary care in the Medicaid program a top priority.

I am writing with an urgent request for your help.

If you are a primary care physician—**especially with a specialty or subspecialty in General Internal Medicine, Family Medicine or Pediatrics**—you can help make sure that Maryland receives millions of dollars in federal funds to support increased reimbursement for primary care services covered by Medicaid.

All it takes is less than five minutes of time. Please visit the secure website <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/attest> to complete and submit the online Primary Care Attestation form.

The key fields are your name, tax ID, national provider number and, if possible, your Maryland Medicaid number.

Under new federal policy, the more primary care clinicians in Maryland who attest using this secure website, the more funding Maryland receives to support reimbursement increases for primary care in the Medicaid program.

In fact, Maryland cannot receive enhanced federal funds to support better reimbursement rates for primary care unless eligible primary care physicians submit the attestation form.

Here's some additional background information: For dates of service beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014, Maryland Medicaid increased rates to 100% of the Maryland Medicare average rate for certain primary care services and vaccines administration under the Vaccines for Children program. Maryland increased rates for most Medicaid providers who bill for these important primary care services, including specialists and nurse practitioners.

You may also visit <https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/PCPFeeIncrease.aspx> for more information regarding the PCP Fee Increase, eligible provide information, and to register for upcoming informational webinars conducted by DHMH concerning both attestation and the rate increase.

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Maryland's primary care physicians need to attest online by **April 15, 2013** so that Maryland is able to receive the maximum amount of federal funds and to help ensure there will be no related cuts to other rates or services.

Any questions or concerns regarding PCP attestation may be directed to:
dhmh.primarycareattestation@maryland.gov

Please share this information with colleagues and any other interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh M. Sharfstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary