



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

PT 24-05

Office of Health Services
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Physicians' Transmittal No. 129

June 20, 2005

TO: General Clinics
Managed Care Organizations
Nurse Anesthetists
Nurse Practitioners
Nurse Midwives
Physicians
Podiatrists

FROM: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

Susan J. Tucker

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: Emergency and Proposed Amendments to COMAR 10.09.02 Physicians' Services

The Maryland Medical Assistance Program is proposing to amend Regulation .07 under COMAR 10.09.02 Physicians' Services, effective July 1, 2005.

The proposed amendment revises the Medical Assistance Program's Physicians' Services Provider Fee Manual by incorporating the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) additions and deletions for 2005.

The 2005 revision to the physicians' fee schedule also includes fee increases for over 1,500 surgical procedures in four medical specialties. Senate Bill 836 (2005), Maryland Patients' Access to Quality Health Care Act of 2004 - Implementation and Corrective Provisions, established the Maryland Health Care Provider Rate Stabilization Fund for the purpose to retain health care providers in the State. The fund has allocated \$30 million dollars to the Medical Assistance Program for FY 2006 to increase fee-for-service

(continued on reverse)



and MCO capitation rates for procedures commonly performed by obstetricians, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons and emergency medicine physicians. Of the \$30 million, \$5.2 million has been allocated to fee-for-service providers and the remainder to HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations. The fee increases take effect July 1, 2005. It is assumed that reimbursing physicians at these higher rates will be an incentive for providers to continue to provide quality health care in Maryland.

The Physicians' Services Provider Fee Manual Revision 2005 is a 75-page Word document available on the internet at www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/providerinfo/.

Any questions regarding this transmittal, the 2005 revision to the physicians' fee schedule and requests for hard or email copies of the fee schedule should be directed to the staff specialist for physicians' services at 410-767-1481 or 1-877-463-3464, extension 1481.

SJT:rz