

Children's Health Programs, are unable to access services because specialty providers are leaving, and will continue to leave, the REM Program due to unacceptably low reimbursement rates; and

~~WHEREAS, A recent survey of the American Academy of Pediatrics published the 100 most often used CPT codes by the Medical Assistance Program nationwide, and the Maryland reimbursement rate was substantially less than the average in the south Atlantic states, the U.S. average, and the reimbursement rate used for the Medicare program often one half to one third lower than the scientifically based Medicare rate; now, therefore,~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article Health General~~

~~15-102.1-~~

~~(b) The Department shall, to the extent permitted, subject to the limitations of the State budget:~~

~~(8) Seek to provide appropriate levels of reimbursement for providers to encourage greater participation by providers in the Program[.]; BY:~~

~~(I) ADOPTING REGULATIONS TO ADJUST THE FEE FOR SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR THE PROGRAM TO REFLECT, AT A MINIMUM, THE RESOURCE BASED RELATIVE VALUE SCALE REIMBURSEMENT RATE USED TO REIMBURSE PROVIDERS IN THE MEDICARE PROGRAM, IF THAT REIMBURSEMENT RATE IS AVAILABLE FOR A GIVEN CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY CODE;~~

~~(II) ANNUALLY IDENTIFYING THE CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY CODES UTILIZED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THOSE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHOSE SERVICES ARE PAID ON A FEE FOR SERVICE BASIS AND CARVED OUT OF THE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROGRAM, INCLUDING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN WHO:~~

~~1. ARE IN THE RARE AND EXPENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; OR~~

~~2. RECEIVE AUDIOLOGY SERVICES OR SERVICES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, OR SPEECH THERAPY;~~

~~(III) ANNUALLY IDENTIFY THE CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY CODES THAT ARE MOST OFTEN USED BY THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE AND NATIONWIDE;~~

~~(IV) ENSURING THAT EVERY CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY CODE UTILIZED BY THE PROGRAM IS REVIEWED AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE REIMBURSEMENT RATE, NO LESS THAN THE RESOURCE BASED RELATIVE VALUE SCALE UTILIZED FOR THE MEDICARE PROGRAM, IS RECOMMENDED BY JULY 1;~~