

# SOUTH GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER

## Employee Medical Plan Revisions

Effective January 1, 2014, the Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County, Georgia, d.b.a. South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) Employee Medical Plan (the "Plan") required that all facility charges must be done at SGMC or one of its facilities. This restructure of the Plan was an effort to reduce the cost of the Plan to SGMC.

After assessing claims data for the first quarter of 2014, SGMC determined modifications to the Plan were warranted. Therefore, the following changes to the Plan were approved on April 16, 2014, by the Hospital Authority and will be retroactive effective January 1, 2014:

- Allow Pregnancy Ultrasounds to be done in OB/GYN offices (UMR can differentiate by provider code) including the limited labs drawn in conjunction with the Ultrasound
- Require Pre-certification for all MRI/CT/PET/ Nuclear Medicine, Out-patient Ambulatory Surgery Centers, and Chemo/Radiation/Dialysis (currently only Inpatient Confinement and Extended Stay require pre-certification) – the date this requirement begins will be announced shortly
- Continue to require all lab tests (except CLIA Waived) to be done at SGMC (if SGMC currently provides the test)
- Allow x-rays to be performed at provider offices along with appropriate treatment
- Allow injections to be performed at provider's offices along with appropriate treatment.
- Allow various other minor procedures such as Removing skin tags, trimming or draining lesions, Draining joint/bursa, removing nail beds or debriding skin or nails, Strep A throat testing, and repair superficial wounds to be performed at the provider's office

Claims incurred during 2014 which were denied will be re-examined. If any claims meet the revised parameters of the Plan with the recent Plan modifications, those claims will be reprocessed. As to this Plan revision, the review of previously processed claims from January 1, 2014, is in progress. However, a timeline for the completion of claims review/reprocessing has not been defined at this time.

The Hospital Authority and SGMC Administration are confident that these changes will make the Plan more convenient and cost-effective to the Plan member while still capturing Plan savings for SGMC. If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please contact SGMC Employee Benefits at (229) 259-4710.