

INSIDE GOTA

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

Providing News, Education, and Networking to OTs, OTAs, and Students

...Advocating, Aligning and Advancing



September 20 - 22, 2013

See you in Savannah!

PURPOSE

GOTA exists to serve as a resource for members, consumers, practitioners and policy makers related to the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Georgia.

MISSION

- Advocating for the health of the public
- Aligning practitioners, consumers and other stakeholders
- Advancing the practice of occupational therapy

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PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

MARY SHOTWELL, PHD, OT/L



Even if you don't work in the school system or have children, "Back to School" is a time where we get organized and recover from our summer vacations. While you were vacationing, GOTA was busy dealing with some

Georgia Medicaid concerns along with the Trialliance (more to follow at a later date).

Along with AOTA, GOTA continues to monitor the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act (AKA-ObamaCare). As you may know, some provisions in the implementation were recently delayed. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Georgia will be using the pre-ordained exchanges (some states have developed their own plans) which essentially means if people qualify for OT services, they will get 10-30 visits of services in a calendar year depending on what additional "habilitative" services a client may need. While we are hopeful that this may provide more consumers with access to OT services, if clients choose to pay the "fine" instead of signing up for the ACA, they may not have the services as intended in the law.

While none of us has a "crystal ball", I am reminded by one of my colleagues, that when Medicare was first implemented, therapists feared that this would limit funding for our services. Over the long haul, implementation of Medicare has expanded the need for our services, so we are hopeful (no matter what your political views) that the ACA will provide expanded access to OT services in the long run.

In addition to monitoring policy, GOTA has been busy planning the Annual Business Meeting which will be held in Savannah on September 20-22, 2013. Michael Iwama (new Program Director and Georgia Regents University) will provide the keynote address on his Kawa model. Friday night will comprise of an ethics seminar which will provide the necessary hours for your license renewal. Innovative presentations will be

provided as well as our annual PAG Auction and a Saturday night Riverboat Cruise. Make it a weekend with OT friends and join us in Savannah!

Two important upcoming events are a Physical Agent Modalities Seminar which will be held on January 31st, 2014 (just in time for license renewals!) and a seminar on the Business/ Policy aspects of practice which will be done in conjunction with the Trialliance (date TBA-may be February, 2014).

We need your help for filling positions and for giving input into nominations for these positions as well as nominations for awards. I would encourage you to nominate colleagues and students for GOTA awards which include, Outstanding Clinician; Barbara E. Grant Award, Student Award, and our newly developed Linda Stephens Scholarship. The website has more information. In terms of positions we are in need of, we have several regional representative positions which will be opening up and our committees (especially communications and conference planning) always need volunteers. We need new energy so please volunteer even if you think you can only devote 1 hour per week to GOTA! Feel free to contact me by e-mail or cell phone if you would like to discuss possible involvement in our organization (mshotwell@brenau.edu; 770-713-4016)

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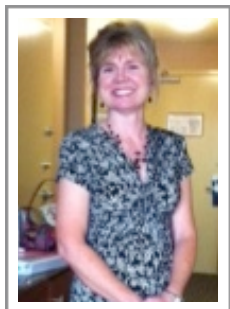
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GOTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ERIN BRENNAN, MS, OTR/L, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



August 2013 - Membership

Greetings to all! GOTA has been working hard over the summer gearing up for a fantastic fall season – are you ready? The Annual Fall Conference is rapidly approaching and will be held in Savannah this year. Save the dates: September 20th to September 22nd- be prepared for a fun-filled and educational weekend. One of the many benefits of GOTA membership is to

provide continuing education opportunities at a discounted price. We also have lots of fun! The GOTA conference is not all about work and continuing education, we must have time for play, networking, and leisure too. After all, that is what OT is all about – finding a balance - we need to practice what we preach! This is your chance to network, travel, meet new OT/OTA practitioners & students, catch up with old colleagues, and squeeze in a bit of education too! We hope to see you there!

We are happy to report that we are slowly increasing our total GOTA membership numbers. We have a total of 277 members for 2013 on our way to our goal of 300 by the start of conference in late September.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| OT Members | 154 |
| OTA Members | 14 |
| Student Members | 108 |
| Associate Members | 4 |
| Organizational Members | 1 |
| Total | 277 |

We have an all-time high number of 108 students! Thank you again for your support. Please spread the word that it is NOT too late to join for this year and encourage your colleagues to join/renew their membership. Please remember that if you can find 3 people NEW to GOTA (or have not renewed in 2 or more years), you can earn a free 2014 membership.

If you need another reason to join GOTA this year, here is one more- combination pricing for 2013 and 2014 membership. We are reducing our price for the rest of the 2013 year, but you must join 2014 for the full price at the same time. This reduced pricing is as follows: OTR's \$125, OTA's \$75, OT/OTA students \$35, and Associates \$45. These prices would include anyone new to GOTA this year, new OT/OTA students starting their schooling, and new graduates (students who have recently graduated- first year out of school). What a great way to join for the rest of the year. This offer is not only economical but will enhance your resume!

Have you taken a look at our new website lately? Take the time to check out www.gaota.com and see our facelift. Students- take a look at the new student section. We hope to continue to enhance our website for all of our members. Suggestions for the website are always welcome. For those of you addicted to social media, have you seen us on Facebook? Please look for the GOTA [Facebook](#) page. We have 254 friends but would love to see more! This is another way you can stay connected with GOTA and keep tabs on GOTA via pictures, announcements, and reminders of upcoming events throughout the regions of Georgia.

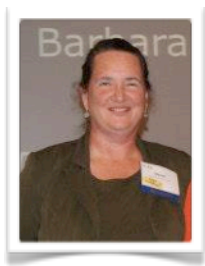
Lastly, hope to see you at the GOTA Membership booth at conference. Take the time to complete a GOTA membership survey and enter the raffle/door prize drawings – you may win a free membership for the 2014 year. If you join GOTA for 2014 at the annual conference – take advantage of the \$5 discount for on-site registration, see details at the registration table or at the Membership booth. Thank you again for being a loyal member to GOTA. This is my last year as Membership Chair – I am changing roles and will be the Communications Chair beginning in the fall. I appreciate all of you and thank you again for all of your support. See you in Savannah!

Sincerely,
Erin W. Brennan
ewbrennan@bellsouth.net

\$5 OFF
When you sign up for your
2014 Membership
At the 2013 Conference!

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

DIANE WOLFE, MHS, OTR/L, NOMINATIONS & RECOGNITIONS CHAIR



The Linda Stephens Scholarship for Occupational Therapy Students is now open for applications. The deadline for applications will be Sept. 2nd, 2013 so that we may present the scholarship at the Annual GOTA conference. The Linda Stephens Scholarship was established to provide assistance to students who are matriculating in an occupational therapy program and demonstrate a commitment to serving the profession of occupational therapy. The financial amount is variable depending upon the availability of funds, which will generally be ½ of the amount in the earmarked fund. You can apply online by clicking [here](#).

ELECTION: Paulette Bell has been re-instated as Treasurer and Kim Steils has been re-instated as Secretary for the GOTA Board.

Please take a few minutes to read over the information below. In this state, there are so many OTs, OTAs, students and supporting companies, who deserve to be honored for their dedication and for their contributions to our field. Let's give them the recognition they are due. Time is running out, submit a nomination today! Don't wait until the last minute! These awards will be presented at the weekend of September 20- 22, 2013 in Savannah, GA at the GOTA 2013 Annual Conference & Professional Meeting.

[Click here to submit a nomination for a deserving colleague!](#)

AWARD CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

Barbara E. Grant Award of Merit

The highest association honor for an Occupational Therapist or an Occupational Therapist Assistant in the state of Georgia.

- Must be an OT or OTA
- Has made an outstanding global contribution to the profession of occupational therapy in the following areas: service, leadership, education, and advocacy.
- Shall have served as a leader within the professional and health care community, actively fostering growth and development of the profession and the Association.
- Must be a current member of GOTA

Outstanding Occupational Therapy Practitioner of the Year Award

An award of excellence given to an OT or OTA who has made outstanding contributions to the profession in one or more of the following areas: practice, research, education, or client advocacy.

- Must be an OT or OTA in good standing
- Shall have made a significant contribution to the profession by utilizing special skills and/or knowledge in therapeutic practice, education, research, and/or administration.
- Must be a current member of GOTA at the time of his or her nomination.

Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student of the Year Award

An award of excellence given to an OT or OTA student who demonstrates leadership capacity in the area of service to the profession and professional/student associations.

- Registered student at an OT or OTA program in the state of Georgia
- Shall have demonstrated his or her commitment and dedication to the profession of occupational therapy through participation in leadership activities, advocacy for the profession, community service and/or education.
- Must be a current member of GOTA at the time of his or her nomination.
- Must be a member of the student association at his or her respective school.

Service Commendation Award

An award given to those who have provided leadership and service to GOTA. It is to recognize members who have served the association through time or task limited activities that foster the work and help meet strategic goals of the Association.

- Shall have demonstrated service to the Association and/or profession through time or task limited activities.

Award of Appreciation

An award given for extraordinary contributions by a member or non-member that led to the advancement of occupational therapy or health promotion to honor and recognize an individual or organization that is not OT professional or provider for their support, promotion and/or advocacy of the profession of occupational therapy.

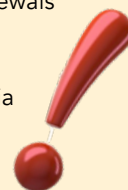
- Shall have made a significant contribution to the advancement of occupational therapy. Their efforts may include, but are not limited to, financial contributions, political support, pioneer work, or an outstanding leadership role.
- Individual or organization must not provide direct occupational therapy services.
- Members/Organizational Members may be nominated for services or contributions that have been made clearly beyond those of normal professional duties and responsibilities.
- Non-Members may be nominated for services or contributions that have markedly benefitted occupational therapy.

GEORGIA LICENSE RENEWALS

Important Notice for GOTA Members

Georgia licenses of all OTs and OTAs are up for renewal in March of 2014. Please note that the license renewal process **will take longer** this year due to the requirement for additional proof of citizenship. Listed below are a few key points to keep in mind when applying for a license this year:

- The State Board of Occupational Therapy is expecting delays of 2 weeks or longer for processing of licenses and renewals because of the additional requirement for proof of citizenship
- Photo ID such as a drivers license or passport and other documentation will be required
- All CEU requirements must be completed prior to the application process, including two (2) contact hours in Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence
- Avoid applying in late December
- If processing delays lead to an OT or OTA's license lapsing, that OT/OTA may not practice until the license is current



Visit the [Georgia Board of Occupational Therapy](#) to review ALL laws, policies, and rules and avoid relicensure issues

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

SMITTY EASON, OTR/L; SABURI IMARA, MS, OTR/L, CCM, FAOTA; TAMARA MILLS, PHD, OTR/L, ATP

There is some confusion about the relationship between the GOTA Continuing Education Committee and the Georgia State Licensing Board. The Continuing Education Review Committee (CERC) was set up initially as a benefit for GOTA members and more or less a courtesy to the State Licensing Board for professional input on appropriateness of content of courses. The CERC of GOTA can only make recommendations as to which courses we think are appropriate for Georgia OT practitioners. When auditing records, the State Licensing Board can take that into consideration or not.

Because there is often some confusion, the CERC often gets questions that only the Licensing Board can definitively answer. Many of the questions asked can be answered by going to the [Georgia Board of Occupational Therapy](#) and looking up the rules and regulations. Specifically, section 671-3-.08, which lists requirements and definitions. Some points worth noting are: 16 hours of required contact hours must be related to direct, "hands on" practice; only up to 4 hours of either direct or indirect hours may be accrued via electronic or web based courses, or formal self study, and at least 2 indirect hours must be regarding Ethics in the practice of OT.

REGIONAL REPORTS & EVENTS

MIDDLE REGION

GOTA Middle Region hosted a course on May 3, in Columbus, GA titled "Home Safety and Evaluation." Ryan Carrick, MHS, OTR/L from CareSouth Home Care Professionals spoke on Practical Applications. Details on next meeting coming soon!

For more information on what's happening in your region, [click here](#).

NORTH REGION

The North Georgia Region will host its 3rd quarter meeting in Calhoun, GA in August or September. The date and speaker are currently being arranged and further details will follow. If you have any question or would like to attend this meeting, please contact Jennifer Deslich at jdeslich@tiger.brenau.edu for further information.



Left: GOTA North Region Physical Agent Modalities Course presented by Krisi Probert, OTS, OTR/L, CHT on June 8, 2013

2013 GOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & PROFESSIONAL MEETING



September 20-22, 2013

The Armstrong Center
13040 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31419

REGISTRATION

Register online or download a registration form for fax/mail now at www.gaota.com.

**OTs & OTAs registering before 9/15/13
avoid the \$25 late fee!**

We are excited about the speakers we have obtained for this year's conference, including our Keynote Dr. Michael Iwama. This year's theme is **"Embracing Change"** with a variety of topics and short courses which can help you update your skills and strengthen your practice as an OT or OTA.

We invite you to register for the conference today. You will receive many benefits by participating in the conference including:

- A variety of topics which will enable you to choose the sessions which will meet your needs
- An opportunity to receive continuing education hours which are required by state licensure
- The ability to meet therapists from different areas of the state, renew friendships, and develop informal networks

All of this for a reasonable price and the flexibility to register for one day or the whole weekend. Did we mention that we intend to have fun too?

Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities Available

If you are interested in exhibiting your products or services at the 2013 Conference, [click here to download a copy of the form](#).

| Registration Options | OT | | OTA | | OTS | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| | Member | NonMember | Member | NonMember | Member | NonMember |
| Full Conference | \$250 | \$350 | \$225 | \$325 | \$40 | \$50 |
| Friday Ethics Only | \$75 | \$90 | \$65 | \$80 | \$20 | \$30 |
| Saturday Only | \$225 | \$275 | \$200 | \$250 | \$30 | \$40 |
| Sunday Only | \$115 | \$140 | \$100 | \$125 | \$15 | \$20 |

Special Event

Tickets for the Savannah Riverboat Moonlight Entertainment Cruise are available for purchase for an additional \$25.00 during registration. You must pre-register for this event as we have to make reservations in advance. Registrations will not be accepted on site.



Above: Images from the 2012 Annual Conference & Professional Meeting

THE KAWA MODEL

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE: DR. MICHAEL K. IWAMA

SUBMITTED BY: MARCO COELHO

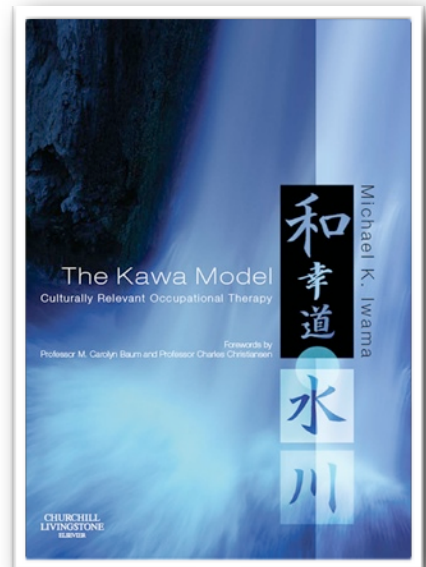


“Life is like a river, flowing from birth to the end of life.”

– Michael Iwama

The KAWA Model

A phrase that encompasses the essence of the Kawa (river) model, the resulting concepts deduced from this metaphor are important to one's understanding of the constructs and underlying themes that the authors present. Developed by a group of Japanese occupational therapists nearly 15 years ago, the Kawa model embraces a framework that draws upon Eastern philosophical viewpoints and sociocultural norms in order to bring culturally sensitive and safe occupational therapy approaches to a dynamic and global profession. As such, the Kawa model transcends the overarching Western ideals of autonomy and individualism and provides a scaffold for building client-centered occupational therapy that is focused on collective societal premises regardless of ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, or political influence. How the Kawa model accomplishes this task is where the dualistic aspects of art and science blend in our profession, and where the nuances of the model give birth to a new paradigm of occupational therapy theory and practice. Through the use of the naturalistic metaphor of water (our life energy) flowing down a river (life), the model utilizes the elements of rocks (problems and difficulties), the river wall and floor (social and physical environment), and driftwood (assets and liabilities) to help bring a greater understanding of a client's condition as described from their vantage point. As such, understanding *Sukima* – the spaces between obstructions – provides an outlet for occupational therapy intervention, thus facilitating enhanced life energy and a return to function.



We are proud to announce that Dr. Michael K. Iwama will be presenting at the 2013 GOTA Annual Conference & Professional Meeting in Savannah on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 8:15AM - 9:45AM.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEWS

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN (GEORGIA REGENTS UNIVERSITY), GOTA & SOTA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



Georgia Regents University is welcoming two outstanding new faculty members starting this fall semester. Dr. Pamalyn Kearney and Dr. Elizabeth Hunter will join the GRU occupational therapy department as Associate Professors. Both are welcomed and esteemed additions to our staff and are looking forward to a great semester!

Dr. Kearney comes to us from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, where she served as Interim Chair and Program Director. She has also been affiliated with Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Hunter comes to us from Lexington, Kentucky, where she was Director of Research at Cardinal Health Rehabilitation. She was also affiliated with the University of Kentucky.

BRENAU UNIVERSITY

This May 2013, **Brenau University** started its third entry level MSOT program in Norcross, which is a hybrid day program. Brenau offers three entry level programs. A 5 day a week (full immersion) program in Gainesville, A Weekend Hybrid program (students meet every other weekend) in Norcross and our newest partial hybrid program in which students are on campus 2.5 to 3 days per week, doing the rest of their course-work on line. Last academic year, Brenau was listed # 37 in the nation for OT programs and we received at least 600 applicants for all three programs. Thanks in part to our growing reputation and the use of OT Centralized Application System (OTCAS), we receive applicants from nearly all 50 states as well as other countries, as far afield as Saudi Arabia.

With all of this program growth, Brenau has added new faculty positions and we will continue to add a few more positions at the end of this academic year in anticipation of our second Norcross Day Cohort. Please welcome our new faculty members which include:

- * Kathy Foley, PhD, OT (coming from University of Alabama, Birmingham)
- * Louise Dunn, ScD, OT (coming from University of Utah)
- * Helene Gabai, OTD, (coming from Emory University Medical Center)
- * Amanda Buono, MSOT (coming from Gwinnett County Schools)

SACS approves Brenau's clinical doctorate:

In other exciting news the Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) has approved the implementation of our newly developed clinical doctorate (OTD) degree. Plans are to start this program in Fall 2014, which will be a low residency program (will likely meet one time per semester, with the majority of the work being done on-line). Particulars are being worked out as we speak in terms of schedule, application process, etc....Please contact Dr. Rosalie Miller rmiller2@brenau.edu for more information.

We look forward to seeing all of you at GOTA in Savannah!



OT & OTA HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

AUDREY GARGIULLO, MS, OTR/L, OT & OTA HIGHER EDUCATION CHAIR

The GA Alliance for Health Literacy (GAHL) has contacted GOTA to receive input from the occupational therapy community. GAHL is a nonprofit coalition representing educators, researchers, government officials, health care providers, health care payers and patients and consumers. They raise awareness about the importance of health literacy skills, offer health literacy resources, and foster better communication for a healthy Georgia and a robust health care industry.

Audrey Gargiullo will attend an on-line conference call on the workgroup focusing on healthcare provider communication skills. In the future, this organization plans to conduct a needs assessment to characterize what Georgia's professional schools are already doing with regards to health literacy and to identify any gaps. They also hope to promote concrete ways that practitioners can better serve their clients with low health literacy skills.

GOTA continues to contact state OT and OTA programs to offer administering on-site presentations to students and faculty about what GOTA does and why everyone should become a member. Angela Matthiessen visited Chattahoochee Technical College and Brown Mackie College OTA programs in the spring.

Audrey Gargiullo
(770) 355-1253

**Audrey Gargiullo will be visiting Augusta
Technical College in early Fall semester**



OT PRACTITIONER SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBI HINERFELD WHO WAS ELECTED AS NEW AOTA VLDC CHAIRPERSON



Congratulations to GOTA member and Past President, Debi Hinerfeld, MS, OTR/L, who was recently elected as the first chairperson of the newly created AOTA Volunteer Leadership Development Committee (VLDC). She assumed office on July 1, 2013. According to AOTA, the VLDC was created by the Representative Assembly to promote member participation and engagement, volunteer leadership development, and participation initiatives of the Association. The VLDC will also oversee the elections and awards processes of the Association.

THANK YOU TO CHRIS BOSSONETTO-DOANE

Chris Bossonetto-Doane will be closing her continuing education business. Her years of service to GOTA are greatly appreciated.

CHARLEY'S ANGELS



Charley Berstecher is a longtime GOTA member and has presented numerous times at our annual conference. He worked with the Georgia Department of Labor's vocational rehabilitation program for over 10 years providing assistive technology and environmental accommodation services for persons of all ages throughout the state and is also a certified Aging in Place Specialist. Charley was most recently employed as an OT at Morgan Memorial Hospital in Madison, GA. Charley entered the field of occupational therapy as a second career and has always been very passionate about the profession, often serving as a mentor to others. He routinely shared his knowledge by being a fieldwork educator for all levels of OT students as well.

As many of you may know, Charley was diagnosed with a genetic liver disorder last year. He has progressively gotten sicker and sicker, and unfortunately, is now in liver failure and currently awaiting a liver transplant. Charley and his family need prayers and support at this time. A Caring Bridge site has been set up to keep friends informed of Charley's status and ways to assist.

Visit [Charley's Angels](#) for more information.



Living Life To Its Fullest™
O C C U P A T I O N A L T H E R A P Y

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

APPEALS FOR SPECIAL CIS CLAIMS REPROCESSING



Provided By:

Jeyaram
& Associates



HEALTHCARE ATTORNEYS

Recent announcements from the Department of Community Health (DCH) may have a significant impact on your practice's bottom line. In this article we discuss what DCH's changes mean to your practice and what you need to do to help protect your practice against legal headache and financial loss.

CIS Claims Reprocessing

On January 23, 2013, DCH issued a Banner Message to all Children's Intervention Services (CIS) Providers informing them of a mass reprocessing of claims to occur over a several month period. **Claims originally processed between November 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012, that billed specific CPT codes are subject to this special reprocessing.**

In a follow-up Banner Message dated May 15, 2013, Providers were instructed that they will first receive a special remittance advice (RA) identifying claims that will be voided. As a result of the voided claims, an accounts receivable will be created with DCH for your practice. When DCH completes this special reprocessing, a final RA will be sent to the Provider that includes the amount to be recovered plus any additional payments that DCH may need to make to you. DCH advises that the "final [RA] can be compared to the special [RA] for better clarity."

Early reports are that the Special RA's detailing the voided claims have been extremely long, which makes comparing the Special RA to the Final RA a daunting task. However, **if you are facing a financial recoupment that is significant to your practice, you must take the time to compare the Special RA to the Final RA. Failure to do so expediently could jeopardize your appeal rights as there are time limitations in which you can make an appeal.**

It is extremely important that you satisfy all of the appeal requirements and meet all deadlines. Failing to do so means that you waive your appeal rights and may not be able to challenge the DCH action.



Step 1: Provider Initial Reviews

DCH Part I Policies and Procedures Manual Section 502(A) allows a Provider to request an Initial Review of a denial of a claim payment by submitting an email request to its fiscal agent, HP, through the Web Portal at www.mmis.georgia.gov (the "Contact Us" function), or by fax (1- 866-483-1045) or by mailing a DMA 520 request form to:

Provider Correspondence HP Enterprises
P.O. Box 105200
Tucker, Georgia 30085-5200

Providers must submit requests for Initial Review on the DMA-520/520A (Provider Inquiry Form) which is located in the DCH Billing Manual and on the Web (www.mmis.georgia.gov) under the Forms and Documents section.

Providers must submit requests for Initial Review within thirty (30) days of the date of the denial of claim payment. The date of denial is likely the date on the Final RA. Providers must also review the applicable CIS Part II Manual for specific information regarding documentation that must be submitted with the request for an Initial Review. Providers may also make a verbal inquiry by calling the HP Provider Inquiry Unit at 1-800-766-4456.

Step 2: Requests for Administrative Review

If the provider is not satisfied with HP's response to the request for Initial Review the Provider has 30 days from the date on the initial review determination (not the date that the Provider receives it) for the Department to receive the Providers request for an Administrative Review.

In Section 505 of the Part I Manual, DCH offers the opportunity for Administrative Review for payment denial issues unless otherwise authorized by law to take such action without Administrative Review. There is no deadline for the Department to complete its review though, arguably, the law requires that such review be completed in a "reasonable" amount of time based on the complexity of the review.

The request must include all grounds for Administrative Review and must be accompanied by all supporting documentation and explanations that the provider wishes the Division to consider. Letters requesting Administrative Review that are not accompanied by supporting documentation will not be accepted or considered. You must refer to the Part II CIS Manual to make sure you attach all the required documentation.

Requests for Administrative Review for all claims being submitted by all Medicaid providers should be forwarded to:

Georgia Department of Community Health
Attention: Director
Customer Service and Resolution
37th Floor, Two Peachtree Street,
Atlanta, GA 30303



Step 3: Request for Administrative Law Hearing

Finally, if the Administrative Review decision is not favorable, Part I section 506 allows Providers to Request an Administrative Law Hearing. The Provider's request must be in writing and received by the Division within fifteen (15) business days after the date the Provider received the Administrative Review decision.

The request for Hearing must include the following information:

- A clear expression by the Provider or authorized representative that he/she wishes to present his/her case to an Administrative Law Judge.
- Identification of the adverse Administrative Review decision or other Division action being appealed and all issues that will be addressed at hearing.
- A copy of the Adverse Action Letter, Administrative Review Response, or Final Denial Notice.
- A specific statement of why the Provider believes the Administrative Review decision or other Division action is wrong.
- A statement of the relief sought.



We recommend sending any correspondence to DCH via certified mail or, if via email, with a delivery receipt function attached to the email so that a Provider can verify that it submitted its request by the deadlines. The specific factual and legal arguments in the appeals will depend on each Provider's specific situation. If you've received notice that your practice is subject to the reprocessing of claims and need help or if you need to appeal DCH's decisions, Jeyaram & Associates can help. *Contact DJ Jeyaram for a free 15 minute consultation on this matter at DJ@Jeylaw.com or 678.325.3872.*

About DJ Jeyaram

Mr. DJ Jeyaram provides legal services to a wide variety of healthcare providers including physicians, hospitals, nursing homes, and Medicaid waiver providers. Mr. Jeyaram concentrates in healthcare regulatory matters, primarily in administrative appeals, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, and program integrity audits and investigations. Mr. Jeyaram is admitted as an Attorney and Counselor of the United States Supreme Court. Jeyaram's experience includes serving as the Deputy Director for Legal Services with the Georgia Department of Community Health and as a Georgia Administrative Law Judge with the Office of State Administrative Hearings. Mr. Jeyaram has also been recognized by his peers with the AV Peer Review Rating, which identifies a lawyer with "very high to preeminent legal ability, is a reflection of the firm's expertise, experience, integrity and overall professional excellence." Further, Mr. Jeyaram has been recognized in Georgia's Legal Leaders' magazine as a "Top Rated Lawyer."

Disclaimer

The materials in this article are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. These materials are intended, but not guaranteed to be current, complete, or up-to-date and should in no way be taken as an indication of future results. Transmission of the information is not intended to create, and the receipt does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship between sender and receiver. This article is offered only for general informational and educational purposes. It does not offer or constitute legal advice or legal opinions. You should not act or rely on any information contained in this article without first seeking the advice of an attorney.

2013 GOTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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* indicates a voting member

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Board Meeting - September 20, 2013, 4pm - 5:30pm - Savannah, GA
 GOTA Annual Conference & Professional Meeting – September 20-22, 2013 – Savannah, GA
 Board Meeting - November 16, 2013 - Augusta, GA
 GOTA PAMS Seminar - January 31 - February 1, 2014 - Norcross

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Stay Connected:



Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcome and to be directed to Traci Swartz at tswartzot@yahoo.com