

How to Apply for Cancer State Aid Program (CSA) Enrollment

Internet addresses are provided and are hyperlinked. Hold down the Ctrl key and left click on the site address to open the web page.

The Georgia Department of Public Health, Division of Health Promotion, Cancer State Aid Unit provides the following information to assist patients in applying for program enrollment. Applicants must qualify both financially and medically to be approved for program enrollment.

Patients should always consult their physician for information appropriate to their health status.

Basic information about CSA:

1. Cancer State Aid is a payer of last resort. You must also apply for all other programs that may be available to you such as:
 - a. Medicaid: http://dch.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,31446711_31945377,00.html
 - b. Medicare: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareGenInfo/>
 - i. The Medicare guide explains the Medicare programs that may help you pay for some of the costs that basic Medicare doesn't cover.
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/02110.pdf>
 - c. Medicaid's Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB): Patients who are eligible for Part B and/or other parts of Medicare and have difficulty meeting the financial demands of paying the premiums and co-payments for that coverage should apply.
http://dch.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,31446711_31945377,00.html
 - d. Supplemental Security Income (SSI): <http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/> Those who are eligible for SSI are usually, also eligible for Medicaid coverage.
2. Your income must be 200% (2 times) of the federal poverty limit or less to qualify for CSA.
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml>
 - a. Outstanding medical expenses and payments you are making on medical bills may help you to qualify financially. Insurance premiums are not counted.
3. You must be in need of active cancer treatment (radiation, chemotherapy or surgery), and have a cancer that will benefit from treatment.
 - a. A physician that is affiliated with the medical facility of your choice must agree to accept you as a patient into his/her care. Physicians donate their services to enrolled patients and do not receive any payment for their services.
 - b. The CSA Program reimburses only eligible cancer treatment services for approved patients provided at medical facilities that have a contract agreement with the program.
 - c. Cancer State Aid pays only for cancer treatments. Payments are made directly to the treating facility. Only facilities that have a contracted agreement with the program may receive payments.
 - d. The CSA Program pays only the portion of the billed amount that covers the costs incurred by the facility to provide the care.
 - e. The amount paid by CSA is accepted by agreement as payment in full for those dates of service listed in the bill; you should not be billed for the remainder.

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Steps of the application process:

1. Select the facility from which you wish to obtain your cancer treatment.
 - a. The link to the list of participating CSA facilities is located on the program's main web page (on the far right of the web page). <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/cancerstateaid/index.asp>
 - b. Select a facility that your physician is affiliated with or
 - c. Request a referral from your doctor to a physician at the CSA facility or
 - d. Request assistance from the Patient Contact to obtain an assessment appointment with one of their doctors.
 - i. Facilities do their best to assist you to obtain an assessment appointment, but it depends upon the availability of their physicians who are willing to accept CSA patients.
2. Call the number listed as the "Patient Contact" for the medical facility that you have selected.
 - e. Explain that you wish to apply for Cancer State Aid.
 - i. Some facilities may request a payment prior to providing an assessment appointment for application to CSA.
3. If you have been advised that you have a condition suspected of being cancer or have a diagnosis of cancer take all of your medical records concerning your suspected cancer or cancer diagnosis with you to your first appointment at the facility.
4. You will be required to provide verification of income, financial assets, and payments you are making each month for medications and medical bills, and a list of your outstanding medical expenses.
5. If you have immigrated and are a legal resident, you will be required to provide documentation of your immigration status.
6. The facility Patient Contact will assist completion of your application and will submit it to CSA on your behalf. CSA does not accept applications sent by applicants.
7. You and the facility's Patient Contact will be notified of the enrollment decision by letter in approximately one week.
8. Once approved for CSA enrollment, you must have prior approval from Cancer State Aid to obtain care from each facility that you wish to visit.
9. If you receive care from another CSA facility other than the one originally requested and do not have prior approval from the program, the treatment provided will not be paid by CSA. You will be responsible for those bills.
10. You must re-apply each July 1st to continue enrollment.

For additional information about Cancer State Aid please contact the program office at 404-463-5111 or the Patient Contact at the participating facility of your choice.