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## Medical Records Retrieval Rates

Pursuant to O.C.G.A §31-33-3, effective July 1, of each year, the costs related to medical record retrieval, certification and copy may be adjusted in accordance with the medical component of the consumer price index. Beginning July 1, 2015, the Department of Community Health (DCH) will be the state entity responsible for calculating the annual inflation adjustment and publishing the revised rates for medical records retrieval. Accordingly, the rates effective July 1, 2017 are as follows:

		Previous	Effective July 1, 2017
Search, Retrieval and Other Direct Administrative Costs	Up to:	\$25.88	\$25.88
Certification Fee	Up to Per Record:	\$9.70	\$9.70
Copying Costs for Records in Paper Form	Per page for pages 1-20:	\$0.97	\$0.97
	Per page for pages 21-100:	\$0.83	\$0.83
	Per page for pages over 100:	\$0.66	\$0.66

**Note: Rates do not apply to records requests necessary to make or complete an application for a disability benefits program or vocation rehabilitation program.**

Also, please note that the State Board of Workers' Compensation has instituted medical record retrieval rates that apply specifically to workers' compensation cases. For information on these rates, please contact the State Board of Workers' Compensation at 404-656-2048 or visit the website at <http://sbwc.georgia.gov>. For inquiries and rates pertaining to medical records retrieval for disability claims, please contact the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency at 678-639-2307.

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## NOTES OF DECISIONS (5)

Construction and application  
 Establishment of fee schedule  
 Purpose  
 Voluntary payments

West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 33. Health Records (Def. &amp; Access)

## § 31-33-3. Costs; ownership of records

West's Code of Georgia Annotated Title 31. Health Effective: July 1, 2016 (Approx. 2 pages)

Effective: July 1, 2016

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-33-3

## § 31-33-3. Costs; ownership of records

Currentness

(a) The party requesting the patient's records shall be responsible to the provider for the costs of copying and mailing the patient's record. A charge of up to \$20.00 may be collected for search, retrieval, and other direct administrative costs related to compliance with the request under this chapter. A fee for certifying the medical records may also be charged not to exceed \$7.50 for each record certified. The actual cost of postage incurred in mailing the requested records may also be charged. In addition, copying costs for a record which is in paper form shall not exceed \$.75 per page for the first 20 pages of the patient's records which are copied; \$.65 per page for pages 21 through 100; and \$.50 for each page copied in excess of 100 pages. All of the fees allowed by this Code section may be adjusted annually in accordance with the medical component of the consumer price index. The Department of Community Health shall be responsible for calculating this annual adjustment, which will become effective on July 1 of each year. To the extent the request for medical records includes portions of records which are not in paper form, including but not limited to radiology films, models, or fetal monitoring strips, the provider shall be entitled to recover the full reasonable cost of such reproduction. Payment of such costs may be required by the provider prior to the records being furnished. This subsection shall not apply to records requested in order to make or complete an application for a disability benefits program.

(b) The rights granted to a patient or other person under this chapter are in addition to any other rights such patient or person may have relating to access to a patient's records; however, nothing in this chapter shall be construed as granting to a patient or person any right of ownership in the records, as such records are owned by and are the property of the provider.

(c) This Code section shall apply to psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records of a patient.

**Credits**

Laws 1984, p. 1680, § 1; Laws 1985, p. 149, § 31; Laws 2001, p. 1157, § 2;  
 Laws 2015, Act 156, § 1, eff. July 1, 2015; Laws 2016, Act 475, § 1, eff. July

10/17/2017

1, 2016.

Formerly Code 1981, § 31-32-3.

**Notes of Decisions containing your search terms (0)** [View all 5](#)

[Ga. Code Ann., § 31-33-3, GA ST § 31-33-3

The statutes and Constitution are current with legislation passed during the 2017 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The statutes are subject to changes by the Georgia Code Commission.

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