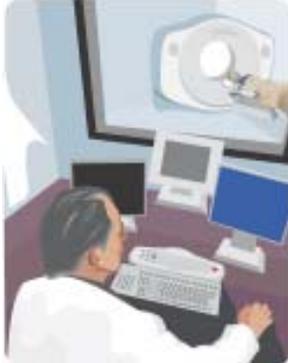


Medicaid Matters

More than \$1.6 million paid to providers for hurricane evacuee care

Alabama Medicaid providers who stepped in to provide care for evacuees of hurricanes Katrina and Rita have been paid more than \$1.6 million from a special fund set up by the federal government to help reimburse providers for medically necessary services not otherwise covered by other programs.



Administered by the Alabama Medicaid Agency, the funds went to pay for services, medications, supplies or equipment furnished to hurricane evacuees not covered by insurance or other programs at the time of service.



Approximately \$1 million went to reimburse uncompensated care claims filed by 39 hospitals, most located in Mobile and southwest Alabama. Other provider groups receiving reimbursement included physicians, clinics, nursing homes, ambulance companies, labs, pharmacies and durable medical equipment providers.

More than 14,000 Medicaid recipients in community based programs

More than 14,000 Alabama Medicaid recipients have elected to participate in one of six home and community based waiver programs offered as an alternative to institutional-based care, according to Medicaid Commissioner Carol A. Herrmann-Steckel.

Home and community-based waiver programs are available to eligible Medicaid recipients who are at risk of needed care in a nursing home, hospital or other institution. Clients must meet financial, medical and program requirements and must be willing to receive services in their homes or communities.

The two largest programs, the Mental Retardation Program and the Elderly and Disabled Program, have been in operation since 1981 and 1982 respectively. Other programs include the Living at Home Program, the State of Alabama Independent Living Program, the HIV/AIDS Program and the Technology Assistance Program for Adults.



[Click here for more information](#) on Alabama Medicaid's home and community based services.



- Inside:**
- ◆ **Sherrell Starr Named Medicaid "Extra Mile" Employee**
 - ◆ **Medicare Part D Changes require some to reapply for extra help**
 - ◆ **What's New on Alabama Medicaid's Website**

Sherrell Starr named “Extra Mile” employee for third quarter

Volunteering to do the work of two people may seem like a Herculean effort, yet the weight appears to rest easily on the shoulders of Sherrell Starr, a Medicaid Care Benefits Specialist II and winner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency’s “Extra Mile” Award for July-September 2006.

The “Extra Mile” Award is given quarterly to an outstanding Medicaid employee who has gone beyond his/her assigned job duties. Nominated by a supervisor or co-workers, the recipient is chosen by a selection committee of Agency employees.



An 11-year Medicaid Agency employee, Mrs. Starr was cited for her willingness to assume additional duties when the Contract Monitoring Unit of the Fiscal Liaison Division lost a longtime employee to retirement. During the time that the unit was short-staffed, Mrs. Starr volunteered to learn the job responsibilities of Bill Processing Systems Test (BPST) Coordinator, to help train a new employee, and to update the information for the annual report while maintaining her own job duties.

“Sherrell exemplifies the attributes of a person deserving this award,” said Kathy Turner, Associate Director of the Contract Monitoring Unit, who nominated Mrs. Starr for the award. “She will volunteer to take on extra duties if she sees that someone is especially busy or overstressed and always displays a positive attitude even when the workload is exceptionally heavy.”

Medicare Part D changes require some to apply for extra help in 2007



Certain Medicare beneficiaries who automatically qualified in 2006 for extra help in paying for prescription drug program premiums, deductible and co-payments under Medicare Part D may need to apply on their own to Social Security to receive these services in 2007. Individuals in this group may still qualify for extra help, but will have to apply to find out. Those affected by this change should receive a notice from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the mail by the end of September.

People who have both Medicare and Medicaid, get help from Medicaid paying their Medicare premiums, or get SSI benefits will continue to automatically qualify for the extra help.

Two new publications from CMS are now available to help explain these most recent changes. Click to view a [“fact sheet” for Medicare beneficiaries](#) or a more detailed [“tip sheet” for providers](#).

Click below for helpful resources and links on Medicaid’s website:

[Medicaid Applications and Forms](#)
[Billing Issues / Fee Schedules](#)

[Contact Information](#)
[Resources](#)

Contact Us: Recipient Questions & Assistance: 1-800-362-1504
Provider Assistance (EDS) 1-800-688-7989
Website: www.medicaid.alabama.gov

