

Medicaid Matters

State awarded bonus for enrolling uninsured children in Medicaid

Collaboration between state agencies and use of new technology to streamline the eligibility process has again resulted in the State of Alabama receiving a federal performance bonus for its efforts to enroll low-income children in Medicaid. On December 29, 2011, Governor Robert Bentley announced the Alabama Medicaid Agency will receive a \$19 million federal performance bonus for the effectiveness of its innovative and user-friendly methods to enroll more low-income children in Medicaid during the 2011 Fiscal Year. Alabama is one of 23 states receiving a performance bonus from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



“For three consecutive years, Alabama has received this performance bonus for its ongoing efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid,” said Governor Robert Bentley. “Alabama is helping families who are struggling to provide basic health insurance for their children. The staffs at the Alabama Medicaid Agency, the Department of Human Resources and the Alabama Department of Public Health have done an outstanding job partnering together to enroll children in Medicaid.”

The federal performance bonus recognizes states which have implemented at least five of eight program features known to promote enrollment and retention in children’s health insurance coverage and have increased state Medicaid enrollment above a target set by federal law. The bonus payments were part of the 2009 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization (CHIPRA) legislation signed into law in February 2009. [Read more >>](#)

Dr. Melinda Rowe named Alabama Medicaid Assistant Medical Director

Melinda G. Rowe, MD, MBA, MPH, has been appointed Assistant Medical Director of Health Systems for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. In this capacity, Dr. Rowe will coordinate and work with Agency staff on a number of issues including long term care, radiology/lab programs and quality initiatives, and will serve as the Agency’s contact person for the Alabama Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics, along with other duties. She will also assist Medicaid Chief Medical Officer Robert Moon, MD.



Board certified in Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine, Dr. Rowe is a graduate of the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama, School of Medicine, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she earned Master’s degrees in Business Administration and Public Health. Her career includes a variety of public health leadership positions in Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama, including more than six years as the Director of Health for the

Louisville/Jefferson County Health Department in Louisville, Ky., where she was responsible for the public health of a community of more than 1 million people. [Read more >>](#)



Inside: • “Town Hall” meetings planned to discuss maternity care improvement
• HIPP Program benefits recipients, saves money for the state

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“Town Hall” meetings planned to discuss maternity care improvement

Alabama Medicaid – which funds approximately one half of all deliveries in the state – is actively seeking the involvement of state obstetric care providers to collaborate with maternal-fetal medicine specialists at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of South Alabama to develop evidence-based guidelines and best practices, quality initiatives and resources



to link community providers and patients to tertiary care for high-risk patients.

Work on this important [initiative](#) will begin on January 12 when a statewide series of “Town Hall” meetings will start discussions with obstetric care providers on how to define best practices, allocate resources and use new technology to improve the care provided to Alabama Medicaid recipients, according to Medicaid Medical Director Robert Moon, MD.

The sessions, to be held in Montgomery, Huntsville, Birmingham and Mobile, are free and pre-registration is not required. Dates, times and locations are: [Montgomery](#) - 6 p.m., January 12 or March 8, AUM School of Nursing, Moore Hall, Room 106, 7461 East Drive, AUM Campus

(The March 8 meeting will also be available by webinar); [Huntsville](#) - 6 p.m., January 17, Corporate University Center, 109 Governor’s Drive; 6 p.m., March 13, Children’s Rehabilitation Services, 3000 Johnson Road; [Birmingham](#) - 6 p.m., January 26 or March 6, Vestavia Hills Library, 1112 Montgomery Highway; and [Mobile](#) - 6 p.m., January 24 or March 27, Saad Healthcare, 1515 University Boulevard South.

HIPP Program benefits recipients, saves money for the state

A little-known state Medicaid program which helps recipients keep their health insurance coverage will soon be looking to enroll more participants.

The Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) program pays health insurance premiums for qualifying Medicaid recipients who have high-cost medical conditions. In some cases, this may benefit qualifying Medicaid recipients that cannot continue to pay their health plan premiums due to job loss, medical leave or other reasons. This service helps certain high-cost recipients receive the necessary healthcare they need when it is cost-effective to the state.

“Given the current economic climate, it’s important that the Agency looks for ways to save money while still affording the neediest among us to receive life-saving health care services,” said Keith Thompson, director of the Agency’s Third Party Division which administers the HIPP program.

To bolster the Agency’s efforts, Alabama Medicaid contracted with Health Management Systems (HMS) to help identify and enroll additional Medicaid recipients who would benefit from enrollment in the HIPP program. During the planning stage, officials from the Agency and HMS met to discuss strategies on how to connect with ideal HIPP candidates. [Read more >>](#)



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