

Medicaid Matters

Commission to recommend Medicaid transformation ideas to Governor

While there is no clear consensus on the best way to reform Alabama's Medicaid program, members of the newly appointed Alabama Medicaid Advisory Commission agree that transforming the state's health care program is needed to ensure the financial viability and affordability of the program that currently provides health care benefits to more than 1 million Alabama citizens each year.



Dr. Don Williamson (left, next to Governor Bentley), Medicaid Advisory Commission chair, comments during the inaugural meeting.

Governor Robert Bentley created the commission by executive order in October, tasking the group with evaluating the financial structure of the Alabama Medicaid Agency and identifying ways to increase efficiency while also helping ensure the long-term sustainability of the agency. The Commission is to make recommendations to Governor Bentley prior to the 2013 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature.

Since the Commission's first meeting on November 1, commission members have met several times to hear presentations from other state Medicaid programs, commercial managed care organizations and Alabama Medicaid's Patient Care Networks and to review cost and other data. [Read more >>](#)

CMS awards grant to expand Agency's data analytics capabilities

A new grant from the federal government will soon help Alabama Medicaid obtain new technology and resources to improve health outcomes for adults covered by the program.

The Adult Health Quality Measures Grant, announced December 21 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will be used to increase the Agency's capacity for standardized data collection and reporting of the data on the quality of health care provided to the approximately 452,644 adults currently eligible for Alabama Medicaid, according to Medicaid Medical Director Dr. Robert Moon.

The Agency was initially awarded \$1 million for the first year and is eligible to receive up to \$2 million over the two-year period. Grant funds will be used to build a quality unit in the Data Analytics Division with the capacity to collect, analyze and report on data from claims, electronic health records (EHR), One Health Record®, the state's health information exchange (HIE), the Real Time Medical Electronic Data Exchange (RMEDE), and other sources.



"The Agency currently does not have a focused unit and system to track the CMS Initial Core Set of Adult Health Measures nor the CMS Initial Core set of Child Health measures," Dr. Moon said. [Read more >>](#)



- Agency staff prepared to implement ACA provider payment "bump"
- Alabama hemophilia effort featured by Medicaid Integrity Institute

Alabama Medicaid Agency P.O. Box 5624 Montgomery, AL 36103-5624

Agency staff prepared to implement ACA provider payment “bump”

Even though Alabama is not planning to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, Agency employees are prepared to comply with another major provision of the health care reform law that requires state Medicaid programs to increase or “bump” up in payments to certain physicians for specified primary care services beginning January 1, 2013.



The fee increase was a major provision of the Affordable Care Act and was originally designed to attract new physicians to Medicaid to meet the health care needs of an expanded pool of Medicaid eligibles. Eligible physicians include board-certified family medicine, pediatric medicine, general internal medicine and related specialties or eligible physicians who can verify that 60 percent or more of the Medicaid codes

they billed in the previous year were primary care codes and certain codes associated with vaccine administration listed in ACA. Health departments, federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics are not eligible for the fee increase.

The increased payments – projected to be \$39.6 million per year in Alabama – are funded entirely by the federal government for 2013 and 2014. However, the responsibility of maintaining the higher fees will fall to the state in 2015. [Read more >>](#)

Alabama hemophilia effort featured by Medicaid Integrity Institute

Alabama Medicaid’s efforts to improve the quality of services provided to patients with hemophilia and to prevent fraud and abuse are being showcased in an online presentation sponsored by the Medicaid Integrity Institute and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The presentation, developed by Kelli D. Littlejohn, Pharm. D., Director of Clinical Services and Pharmacy, Alabama Medicaid, showcases the state Agency’s approach. The segment, ***Alabama Medicaid Hemophilia Standards of Care***, describes the background and history, the standards of care, and the consequences for failure to comply. Alabama implemented these measures to ensure better oversight and treatment of hemophilia patients five years ago. The effort not only helped to ensure that all patients with hemophilia received a minimum standard of care but also significantly boosted the Agency’s ability to head off fraud and abuse associated with the use of expensive clotting factor. [Read more >>](#)



Dr. Littlejohn presents “Alabama Medicaid Hemophilia Standards of Care” during a 2012 seminar.

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

