

Medicaid Matters

Two new publications help patients prepare for emergencies



Two easy-to-read handouts for patients on when to go to the emergency room and how to prepare for health problems at home are now available on the Alabama Medicaid website. The publications were designed in response to requests from physicians, hospitals and others for assistance in educating patients about appropriate ER use, according to Kim Davis-Allen, Director of Medicaid's Medical Services Division which includes the Agency's Patient 1st program.

"Many patients go to the emergency room for non-emergencies," Ms. Davis-Allen said. "Our goal is to help patients better understand when it is appropriate to use the emergency room and what to do when health problems arise at home."

To view and print the handouts, [click here](#).

Schools asked to help Medicaid recipients, applicants obtain federally-required identity documents

Schools, Head Start sites and day care programs are encouraged to assist Medicaid-eligible children under age 16 in obtaining documents now required by the federal government.

More than 500,000 Alabamians now on Alabama Medicaid and thousands more who will apply for services this year must prove both citizenship and identity when first applying for Medicaid or upon their first Medicaid re-determination after July 1, 2006. Medicare beneficiaries and SSI recipients are exempt from the new federal law.



Because the new law requires proof of citizenship and identity, parents may need school, day care or nursery school records to provide the necessary documents, according to Lee Rawlinson, Medicaid Deputy Commissioner for Beneficiary Services.

"Most children under age 16 have access to a birth certificate or adoption decree to prove citizenship, but do not have an official photo identification card such as a driver's license. In those cases, official copies of school or day care records will be needed to complete the eligibility process," she said.

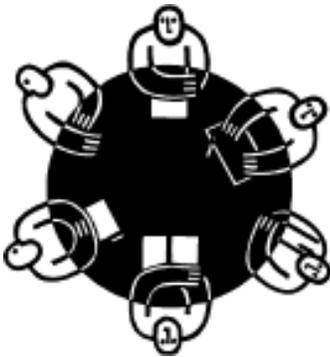
For more information on the new citizenship and identity requirements, [click here](#).



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LTC Choices Workgroup exploring potential opportunities for state

A new workgroup hosted by the Alabama Medicaid Agency is exploring potential opportunities that may be available to the state as a result of recent federal initiatives to support elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients who wish to live in the community rather than institutions.



Comprised of approximately 35 individuals representing state agencies, advocacy organizations, provider associations and others, the Long Term Care Choices workgroup began meeting during the spring, according to Commissioner Carol A. Herrmann-Steckel.

“Initially, the workgroup has focused on bringing the various agencies and organizations together and learning about each group’s interests and the different programs and services each offers,” said Commissioner Herrmann-Steckel. “Our next step will be to identify what opportunities are available, and if so, what steps or changes can be taken without requiring additional funding from the state’s General Fund.”

What’s new on Medicaid’s website:

- New forms, frequently asked questions and updated information on Alabama Medicaid’s implementation of the **National Provider Identifier (NPI)** are available on the Agency’s website. The most recent additions include two provider “Alerts” and three forms to be used in reporting NPI numbers to EDS, Alabama Medicaid’s fiscal agent. [Click here to view NPI webpage.](#)
- Frequently asked questions, handouts and presentations from Medicaid’s recent series of **Town Hall meetings** are now available on the Agency’s website. To view the materials, [click here.](#)
- Is your young child, age birth to 3, learning and growing in the way you expect? Alabama’s Early Intervention System, a division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, has produced a new outreach flyer to help parents recognize if their child is not meeting age-appropriate developmental milestones. Additional copies of the flyer can be requested by contacting Diane Roberts at (334) 215-5036 or droberts@rehab.state.al.us. To see a copy of the flyer, [click here.](#)



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

[Applying for Medicaid](#)
[Billing Information](#)

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

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

