

Medicaid Matters

Waiver changes to help more recipients transition to community

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has received federal approval to amend two waiver programs, making it possible for more Medicaid recipients to receive the support they need to transition to a community-based setting. Both changes are retroactive to October 1, 2006.

Approval was granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend the State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Waiver and the HIV/AIDS Waiver programs to fund case management activities to transition from a nursing intermediate care facility for community setting. Individual-waiver programs may receive services while they are still consecutive days prior to institution.



Additionally, CMS approved Waiver to permit environments to assist an individual tional level of care to the SAIL fund the necessary modifications, such as a wheelchair ramp or doorway revisions, to enable a waiver service recipient to receive services in the community.

facilitate an individual's facility, hospital or the mentally retarded into a als served under the two ceive case management institutionalized for up to 180 being transitioned from the

an amendment to the SAIL mental accessibility adapta- in transitioning from an institu- Waiver. This change will help

The State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Waiver provides services to disabled adults 18 years of age or older who have specific medical diagnoses and who would otherwise qualify for care in a nursing care facility. The SAIL Waiver is operated by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. The HIV/AIDS Waiver provides services to qualifying adults diagnosed with HIV, AIDS and/or related illnesses who would otherwise require care in a nursing facility or institution. The HIV/AIDS Waiver is operated by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

[Click here for more information on Alabama Medicaid's Waiver programs.](#)

New Medicaid ID numbers designed to protect recipients' privacy



New Medicaid Card

In an effort to protect the privacy of nearly one million Alabama Medicaid recipients, Alabama Medicaid Agency will issue new identification numbers for all people on Medicaid on January 16, 2007. The move is in keeping with a new state law prohibiting the use of Social Security numbers on items for public inspection, according to Lee Rawlinson, Medicaid Deputy Commissioner for Beneficiary Services.

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- ◆ Cathy Brown is Agency's "Extra Mile" Award Winner
- ◆ Helpful Resources and Links on Medicaid's Website

All Medicaid recipients to receive new ID numbers in January 2007

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Most Alabama Medicaid recipients will learn their new ID number when they receive a new plastic ID card. The card, used to verify eligibility for Medicaid covered services, will be identical to the previous card except that the 13-digit number will start with a "5" instead of a "0" and will not contain the Social Security number. Cards will be issued over several weeks starting in mid-January of 2007.



Unborn babies, people who are on Medicaid in the nursing home or people who only get Medicare premiums paid by Medicaid will get a letter with the new Medicaid number instead of a card. In the case of unborn babies or those in nursing homes, the letter may be mailed to the baby's mother or nursing home patient's sponsor. Recipients, payees or sponsors who receive a letter are strongly encouraged to keep the letter for reference.

Since the old ID number will eventually be phased out, Alabama Medicaid providers are encouraged to update patient records as recipients present their new ID cards. Providers will be able to use the new number immediately although the old ID number may still be used for all claims and transactions submitted to Alabama Medicaid.

A letter explaining the change will be sent to all recipients in early December. [Click here to view recipient letter](#). Medicaid providers and software vendors were notified of the change in an ALERT sent November 20, 2006. [Click here to view the provider ALERT](#).

Cathy Brown named Alabama Medicaid "Extra Mile" winner



Few people define and exemplify teamwork with the same style that Systems Support Associate Director Cathy Brown does. Nevertheless, in order to make a crucial deadline, she redefined both her Unit and herself. Proving that teamwork does indeed make a difference in how a job gets done, Mrs. Brown is the Alabama Medicaid Agency's "Extra Mile" Award winner for October - December 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. [Click here to read more...](#)

Helpful resources and links on Alabama Medicaid's website:

[Citizenship & Identity Information](#)
[National Provider Identifier \(NPI\)](#)

[Medicaid Transformation Grant Proposal](#)
[Online Catalog](#)

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

