

# Medicaid Matters

## Agency, providers implement tamper-resistant pad mandate October 1

While a new federal mandate imposes significant administrative burdens on Medicaid-enrolled physicians, hospitals and pharmacy providers, collaborative efforts between the Alabama Medicaid Agency and state health care providers are now underway to meet an October 1 deadline for use of tamper-resistant prescription paper for certain prescriptions provided to Medicaid recipients. In FY 2006, a total of 8.5 million written or electronic prescriptions were filled for Alabama Medicaid recipients.

Passed by Congress in May, the new federal law requires all written, non-electronic outpatient prescriptions issued to Medicaid recipients must be written on tamper-resistant prescription paper on or after October 1, 2007. More specific requirements were issued by the federal government on August 17 and as late as September 12, leaving state Medicaid providers little time to obtain the specialty prescription pads needed.

“The short time frame allowed to implement this federal mandate has imposed an undue administrative burden on Medicaid-enrolled providers.” Medicaid Commissioner Carol Steckel said. “While I support prevention of fraud and abuse within the Medicaid program, it is also important that Alabama Medicaid recipients continue to have access to medically-necessary prescriptions prescribed legally by their physicians.”

Commissioner Steckel expressed appreciation to the state’s Medicaid providers for their efforts to work closely with the Alabama Medicaid Agency to comply with the new federal law while continuing to meet the health needs of state Medicaid recipients.

“The State of Alabama is indebted to these individuals and organizations not only because they are providing care to Alabama’s most vulnerable citizens, but also for their willingness to seek workable solutions to meet this deadline,” she said.

Updated information on the use of tamper-resistant prescriptions by Medicaid providers is available on the Agency’s website. [Click here for more information](#)



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## Moon appointed Alabama Medicaid Medical Director

Montgomery family physician Robert Moon, MD, has been appointed Medical Director for the Alabama Medicaid Agency, effective September 1. As Medicaid’s medical consultant, Dr. Moon will work with Agency staff on the development and modification of medical criteria, policies and procedures used

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**Inside:** ♦ Theresa Carlos named “Extra Mile” Employee  
♦ Agency Contact Information



Robert Moon, M.D.

## TFQ, criteria, policies on agenda for new Medicaid medical director

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statewide and in the implementation of clinical projects and programs, including the Agency's *Together for Quality* initiative.

Board certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Moon is a graduate of Auburn University and the University of Alabama, School of Medicine. He completed his residency at the Family Medicine Residency Program at The Medical Center in Columbus, GA in 1989. He has been in private practice since 1989 and in Montgomery, Alabama since 1990.

Dr. Moon has a strong professional interest in patient education, disease prevention and physician management demonstrated by his publication of "Finding Diamonds in the Trenches with Nominal Group Process," *Family Practice Management*, May 1999.

He is originally from Phenix City and is married to Jenny Moon. They have three children, ages 21, 18 and 13.

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## **Carlos named "Extra Mile" employee for July-September quarter**



*Theresa Carlos*

With close attention to detail and a strong work ethic, Theresa Carlos, associate director of Medicaid's Statistical Support Unit, leads her staff each day as they meet the agency's growing statistical and reporting needs. While it is her job to provide oversight to the unit, members of her staff unanimously agree that her ability to be a team player who sets and exceeds high standards exemplify why she is not only a top supervisor but a Medicaid employee deserving of the prestigious "Extra Mile" Award for the third quarter of 2007.

The Extra Mile award is presented quarterly to an outstanding Medicaid employee who has gone beyond his/her assigned job duties. The recipient is chosen through a selection committee of Agency employees upon nomination from a supervisor or co-worker.

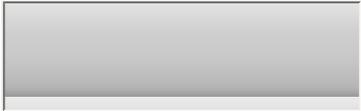
In nominating Ms. Carlos, unit members Elizabeth Cole, Sharon Rhodes and Lea Ann Webb praised the extra time and effort she contributes to routine tasks and special projects, in addition to exhibiting overall helpfulness to staff members and outside agencies. One unit employee wrote, "In the midst of what is often a very stressful day, Theresa is without fail a very thoughtful person...her positive outlook on life makes her a joy to work with daily."

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Ms. Carlos worked as a nurse with Jackson Hospital and as a case manager with the Alabama Department of Public Health before joining Medicaid in 1998. While at Medicaid, she has worked in the Outreach and Education Unit and the System Support Unit before being named to her current position in 2004.

In her spare time, she enjoys following UK basketball and spending time with her husband, Jeff, and their two children.

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## Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads

Starting on October 1, 2007, a new federal law mandates that all written, non-electronic prescriptions for Medicaid recipients be written on tamper-resistant pads in order to qualify for reimbursement by the federal government.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring that only one of the three characteristics for tamper-resistant prescription pads be met by October 1, 2007, with all three characteristics met by October 1, 2008.

The three characteristics must: 1) prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; 2) prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; or 3) prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

Alabama has taken a number of steps to determine how to comply with this law and most importantly, how to ensure that Medicaid recipients continue to have access to medically-necessary medications prescribed legally by their physicians.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is currently working with state physician and pharmacy associations regarding Alabama policy changes to ensure compliance for the October 1, 2007 implementation date, including changes to the Administrative Code.

- [ALERT for Providers](#) - **Updated 9/14/07**
- [CMS Guidance](#) - **Letter to State Medicaid Directors issued 8/17/07**
- [Sign up for email updates](#) - **Subscribe to updates issued by the Medicaid Pharmacy Program**
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