

Medicaid Matters

TFQ pilot project seeks to test quality improvement model

From the inception of Alabama's Together for Quality initiative, project stakeholders have explored ways to use data and technology to improve patient health outcomes. Now, stakeholders are watching closely as Patient 1st physicians in 11 Alabama counties pilot test a carefully crafted quality improvement (QI) model they believe will ultimately transform the state's Medicaid program.

The proposed QI model includes care management and use of an electronic clinical support tool, according to Medicaid Medical Director Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., co-chair of the TFQ Clinical Workgroup, a multi-disciplinary group comprised of physicians and other health care providers as well as representatives from academia, professional associations, state agencies and others.

"This model is based on our belief in the importance of having as much health information as possible to get a more complete picture of a patient," Dr. McIntyre said.

Launched in Pike and Bullock counties in February, the pilot project will be expanded to nine other counties by summer of 2008. Medicaid staff members are now recruiting physicians for pilot test efforts in Calhoun, Houston, Jefferson, Lamar, Montgomery, Pickens, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Winston counties. [To see more, click here.](#)



Tamper resistant prescription pad use to start nationwide April 1

While early reports suggest that most Alabama physicians are prepared to use federally-required tamper-resistant prescription pads on April 1, 2008, the Alabama Medicaid Agency is continuing its efforts to reach out to doctors or others who may have questions concerning the new requirements.

"Many physicians have told us that they are already using tamper-resistant prescription pads," said Medicaid Pharmacy Services Director Kelli Littlejohn, Pharm.D., noting that providers with questions can continue to get updated information via the [Agency's website](#) or by contacting the Pharmacy Services program directly at trp@medicaid.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-5050.

Tamper-resistant prescription pads typically contain features that prevent unauthorized or fraudulent use. Some of these features include special ink that highlights erasures or changes, sequentially numbered forms, and special patterns or words that appear if the prescription is copied.

[To see more, click here](#)



- ◆ Commissioner Steckel receives "Distinctive" honor from Girl Scouts
- ◆ Extra Mile winner enjoys challenge of Medicaid fraud investigations

Commissioner Honored as a “Woman of Distinction” by Girl Scouts

Medicaid Commissioner Carol Steckel was one of 12 women honored March 14 by the Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama during its 15th Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon in Birmingham.



Scouts from Brownie Troop 9268 of Prattville joined Commissioner Carol Steckel in celebrating her recognition as a “Woman of Distinction.”

The program pays tribute to women who have made special contributions to their community through civic, academic or professional involvement.

Award recipients are chosen based on their personal records of community involvement, career success and service as a role model for past, current and future Girl Scouts.

Being a Girl Scout was an empowering experience, according to Commissioner Steckel. “I learned from Girl Scouts how women can work together, become leaders and be bold!”

Extra Mile winner enjoys challenge of Medicaid fraud investigations

As a Medicaid investigator, Anthony Green draws on his 21 years of experience with the New York State Police Department to bring a fresh perspective to the Program Integrity Division.

His fresh perspective, combined with extra time and effort to understand complicated pharmacy regulations, policies and processes, helped to end fraudulent billing by a south Alabama provider in 2007 and resulted in the recoupment of over \$800,000 for the state of Alabama.

In recognition of his efforts, Green was named Medicaid’s Extra Mile Employee for January - March 2008. The Extra Mile award is given quarterly to an outstanding Medicaid employee who has gone beyond his or her assigned job duties. Nominated by a supervisor or co-workers, the recipient is chosen by a selection committee of agency employees.



Anthony Green

“Tony was very dedicated in working with us to understand the prescription process, Medicaid pharmacy policy, and State Board of Pharmacy regulations related to the case,” Director of Pharmacy Services Kelli Littlejohn, Pharm.D., said in her nomination letter. “His attention to detail was very impressive.”

Littlejohn notes that his innovative approach extends to every aspect of what he does for Medicaid. “He is a valuable asset to our Agency,” she said.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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