



Office of the Governor
Division of Medicaid

Dr. Robert L. Robinson
Executive Director

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Medicaid Sharpens Eligibility Reporting Accuracy

Updated data “snapshot” now used as tool to determine program’s population

JACKSON, MS.—(Jan 13, 2006) – The Division of Medicaid has improved the accuracy of pinpointing exactly how many beneficiaries are on the program’s rolls on a month by month basis. Historically, these eligibility numbers were reported as a yearly unduplicated count. Governor Barbour said, “Ensuring eligibility also provides more accurate Medicaid roll numbers, which will help better implement this important program.”

Medicaid Director, Robert L. Robinson, said frustrations brought about by the complexity of how we measured the number of individuals on our rolls was unacceptable. “Our continued mandate to improve this program’s efficiency for the benefit of all we are privileged to serve is job one at the Division of Medicaid. That means maximizing the benefits to those who are truly eligible as well as running an efficient program for our taxpayers.”

Currently, a comparison of the program’s population from December 2004 vs. December 2005 shows a 2.23% decrease from 621,586 to 607,731 respectively. A similar comparison in the Children’s Health Insurance Program’s numbers show a 3.84% decrease for the same time period from 67,120 to 64,543.

According to the Executive Director, “Legislative reforms proposed by Governor Barbour and passed by the legislature have enabled the Division of Medicaid to do a better job of determining eligibility. This allowed for reductions in the rolls without denying benefits to any qualified individual.”

The Medicaid program, funded by federal and state dollars, pays for medical care for qualified individuals who can’t afford such care and who meet eligibility requirements set by law.

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