



State of Mississippi
Office of the Governor
Division of Medicaid
Rica Lewis-Payton
Executive Director

Statement RE: HIPAA regulations
December 4, 2003

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As a result of federal legislation passed in 1996, the Division of Medicaid and all other healthcare entities were required to have HIPAA compliant systems in place by October 16, 2003.

As with any new system that comes on line, especially one as massive as the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), there are issues that arise that must be worked out. These problems relate to the system itself, as well as the ability of individuals to interact with a system that is new and different.

In anticipation of these issues, the Division of Medicaid made extensive efforts to prepare providers. These efforts included workshops across the State and special bulletins with billing instructions. As an extra helping hand we have been running a dual system for those providers who do not yet have HIPAA compliant systems in place. It's more work for us but we want to do all we can to help our providers make this transition.

While many issues with the system have been resolved, there are problems that remain. **Our commitment has been and continues to be, to ensure providers get paid. We outlined a process to make out of system payments to providers who experience cash flow issues. Providers who request it may get reimbursement up to their average payments.**