

Storm Evacuees Get Temporary Medical Help From New Medicaid Waiver

The Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid, announced today the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has temporarily expanded Mississippi Medicaid eligibility options due to circumstances brought about by Hurricane Katrina. “CMS has been just great in working with us.” said Bobby Moody, Interim Medicaid Executive Director. “This temporary change brought about through a demonstration waiver will allow the Division of Medicaid to offer temporary Medicaid benefits to those persons displaced by the storm.”

Medical services reimbursed for this specific population will be the same benefits provided by the current Mississippi Medicaid program. For example, Mississippi Medicaid reimburses for 30 inpatient hospital days per fiscal year, 12 physician visits per fiscal year, and 5 prescription drugs per month. According to Moody, “This expanded eligibility group defined by CMS will allow persons who were Medicaid eligible in their state to enroll in our program on a temporary basis to ensure medical services are accessible.”

Those displaced by Hurricane Katrina who are eligible for Medicaid should call 1-800-421-2408 to learn more. Medicaid is a federal/state program that helps pay for medically necessary medical services for needy and low-income persons.