

*Remarks for the
Medicaid Contract Press Conference
November 8, 2001*

Good afternoon. Thousands of Mississippians depend on Medicaid for their prescription drugs. It is incumbent on us to make sure that is done in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Today, I am proud to announce that Health Information Designs has been named as the pharmacy benefits management and drug utilization review contractor for Mississippi Medicaid.

This three-year contract is a new “scope of work” designed to protect our beneficiaries and save money from the state level.

Health Information Designs will assist in evaluating Medicaid’s pharmacy program, and make recommendations for changes that should significantly reduce the yearly increase in Medicaid drug costs.

This is part of the process we have put into action to address cost increases in Medicaid programs.

Let me emphasize, we want the greatest value with our purchase of drugs without reducing or restricting the benefits for those who depend on Medicaid.

To discuss this in more detail, I'd like to introduce Mr. Bo Bowen, Deputy Administrator for Health Services with Medicaid.

(Bo Bowen speaks, then introduces Dr. J. Tyrone Gibson, President of Health Information Designs; after Dr. Gibson speaks, you return to podium)

Again, our goal is to get the best value in prescription drugs without reducing or restricting current benefits.

The health of our people reflects the health of our state. We are working hard to be in the best shape possible.

We'll be glad to take any questions.