



Department of Medical Assistance Services (“DMAS”) Announces New Medicaid Fiscal Agent and Provider Enrollment Services Contractor

CLIENT ADVISORY

Health care providers enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid program will soon bill claims through a different fiscal agent. But according to Patrick Finnerty, Director of DMAS, the change will come with minimal administrative adjustments and plenty of provider-centric enhancements.

On January 5, DMAS announced that it will transfer all Fiscal Agent and Provider Enrollment Services functions from First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) to ASC State Healthcare. The transition is expected to occur on or shortly before July 1, 2010, though no definitive date has been announced.

“ACS is a Fortune 500 company that specializes in business processes and information technology solutions for commercial and government clients worldwide,” Finnerty wrote, in a memorandum to providers available on the DMAS website. “The company will take over existing operations historically performed by FHSC, including claims processing, provider enrollment, electronic data interchange (EDI), checks/remittances and electronic funds transfers (EFTs), web-based and telephonic inquiry applications (Automated Response System and MediCall), and member eligibility functions.”

The memorandum emphasizes that the transition will not include development and implementation of a new Medicaid Management Information

System (MMIS), nor will it change the process for submitting paper claims and pre-admission screening assessments. Providers who submit claims electronically will simply be given a new user ID, password, and File Transfer Protocol (FTP) address to which files will be sent. DMAS will also continue to partner with all the same eligibility vendors.

Providers can, however, count on a few changes, mostly surrounding what DMAS anticipates as “new and enhanced services”. These will include, at no cost, online, real-time services including claims submission and provider enrollment. A new web portal will facilitate these enhancements, and DMAS plans to provide training for its use.

For more information, please visit the DMAS Fiscal Agent Transition website, at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/fa-trans.htm>, or contact Emily Towey (etowey@hdjn.com), Rachel Suddarth (rsuddarth@hdjn.com), or Elizabeth Trende (etrende@hdjn.com) via email or telephone at (804) 967-9604. Additional information about Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle, PC, is available on our website at www.hdjn.com.

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