



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

*For further information contact Betina Gonzales McCracken
Communications Director 505.827.6245 or 505.699.4675*

For Immediate Release

**Secretary Pamela Hyde Announces Administrative Reimbursement for
Medicaid School-Based Services is Reinstated**

Santa Fe, September 17, 2004 –New Mexico’s public schools are getting a boost because they will once again be able to bill Medicaid for time spent by school staff managing and administering the Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) program. “It has been a priority of this administration to once again provide administrative claiming for our Medicaid SBS program and we are happy that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved our request,” said Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde.

The previous administration discontinued this important function in October 2002 due to billing inaccuracies, which HSD is now able to reinstate based on the SBS guidelines released by CMS in 2003. Administrative claiming allows school district staff that work on the SBS program to submit claims for payment through Medicaid for their time spent administering the program. Medicaid SBS allows children with disabilities to have the same opportunities as other children in the public school education process. “I commend Secretary Hyde for working with CMS to reinstate the administrative claiming for Medicaid School-Based Services,” said Senator Cynthia Nava. “I think this is a positive step in bringing more health related programs into the schools to serve our students.”

The Medicaid SBS program provides direct health care services to school children with special education and health care needs like physical, speech and occupational therapy, nursing, case management and mental health services. “The children are going to benefit from this change,” said Carolyn Ingram, State Medicaid Director. “With the reinstatement of administrative billing, school district staff will again be able to bill Medicaid for the work they do to support the program, including required outreach to Medicaid-eligible children, conducting medical program planning and policy development, and linking SBS children to other important health services in their community.”

All but four of the 89 school districts in New Mexico participate in the Medicaid SBS program, which helped provide services to more than 14,000 school children with special needs during the 2003-2004 school year up from 9,000 the previous year. Last year, \$9 million dollars, up from \$3.7 million the previous year – at about a \$3 to \$1 federal match – was paid to school districts for Medicaid SBS. “We appreciate CMS’s approval now, as this is just one part of an overall redesign that is taking place in the Medicaid program to make it more effective in providing quality care to the 420,000 New Mexicans we serve,” said Ingram.

###