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For Immediate Release

New Mexico Awarded \$1.6 Million in Federal Grants to Implement New Technologies for the Medicaid Program

Grants will Fund Electronic Health Record and “E-Prescribing” Projects in
New Mexico

Santa Fe, January 30, 2007 – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) announced that its Medical Assistance Division has been awarded two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The grants total nearly \$1.6 million, earmarked to help the state improve the quality of care for those using Medicaid. The Medicaid Transformation Grants are awarded to states to help them implement innovative systems to improve services and get more value from Medicaid dollars. “These grants are a perfect opportunity to maximize federal funding for access to health care in New Mexico, which is one of Governor Bill Richardson’s goals to closing the uninsured gap in our state,” said Secretary Pamela Hyde, HSD.

“Both of these grants will help us assure that Medicaid clients and providers in rural parts of the state, including Indian Health Services, can be part of new technologies the health care industry is starting to employ,” said Carolyn Ingram, the state’s Medicaid Director. “They will help clinicians and pharmacists improve their ability to get vital pieces of clients’ health information when they need it.”

The first grant, totaling \$712,301, will help New Mexico implement the Electronic Health Record (EHR) project. The EHR will enhance Medicaid efficiency and effectiveness by connecting clinicians treating Medicaid patients through a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) secure web portal that will display test results, diagnoses and dates of care, while ensuring patient confidentiality and privacy. Currently, clinicians often have to proceed with treatment regimens lacking key medical history, or delay implementing care until the information can be located. The department will partner with Affiliated Computer Services (ACS), which is the existing state Medical Information System contractor to implement the EHR project.

The second grant, totaling \$855,220 for “E-Prescribing”, will help doctors and practitioners reduce the possibility of errors when providing prescription drugs to Medicaid recipients by decreasing adverse drug affects caused by drug allergies, drug interactions, illegible handwriting, uncertain instructions and unclear dosage information.

The department will receive the funds over the next two years, and no state match is required to receive the grants.

For a complete list of Medicaid Transformation Grant Awards, see
www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidTransGrants.

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