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New Mexico Will Be in Full Compliance with Administering the Federal High-Risk Insurance Pool

SANTA FE – New Mexico will be administering the Federal High-Risk Insurance Pool in full compliance with the federal rules and regulations issued by the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Department, which means elective abortion is not and has never been intended to be a benefit.

“New Mexico has always intended to follow all federal laws in running the High-Risk Insurance Pool and will continue to work closely with the HHS as further guidance is issued on this very important health coverage option for New Mexicans,” said Katie Falls, Human Services Department Secretary.

The Human Services in cooperation with the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (NMMIP) is contracting with HHS operate a temporary federal high-risk insurance pool program in New Mexico.

“The \$37 million federal program will provide much needed immediate health insurance coverage for the sickest of New Mexicans. NMMIP is pleased that New Mexico can now expand coverage to ensure it meets the needs of those who can't get health insurance. NMMIP will be implementing this program in accordance with all federal laws and regulations,” said Debbie Armstrong, NMMIP Executive Director.

Applications became available at the beginning of July and coverage is scheduled to begin in August. So far, four people are enrolled in the federal high-risk pool, 23 applications are pending and dozens of applications have been sent to interested New Mexicans.

The high-risk pool will assist people with a pre-existing medical condition who have been uninsured for at least six months. Additionally, a person with low income may also qualify for a subsidized premium. The temporary pool will expire in 2014, when the new federal law bars the denial of insurance coverage for medical reasons across all health plans in the country.

To see if you qualify for the new federal high-risk pool or for additional information on the existing New Mexico high-risk pool please visit NMMIP's website at <http://www.nmmip.org> or contact the NMMIP Office at (505) 424-7105 or Toll Free at (866) 622-4711.

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