

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>4-21-10</i>
--------------------	------------------------

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOC NUMBER <i>101428</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>4-29-10</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Ms. Fortner, DGS</i> <i>Cleared 5/6/10, see attached</i> <i>e-mail response.</i>			

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4770

April 21, 2010

Log: Myers
CICF Reps

Via Electronic Transmission

Emma Forkner
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
State of South Carolina
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Director Forkner:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in South Carolina's Medicaid program and what steps South Carolina takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how South Carolina's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Serquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

Drug X, 2008

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

Drug X, 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission

Emma Forkner
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
State of South Carolina
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Director Forkner:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in South Carolina's Medicaid program and what steps South Carolina takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how South Carolina's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Ability;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

Drug X, 2008

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

Drug X, 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

Report for Senator Grassley
SCDHHS
Report of Atypical Anti-Psychotics and Pain Medications

Log # 4228
to close
Cleared
5/16/10

Possible Data Limitations:

For the time frame requested, pharmacy claims processing standards allowed for a number of different identifiers to be used to name the prescribing physician of pharmacy claims. These identifiers include: physician state license number, NPI number, DEA registration number, and state assigned provider number. The determination of which prescriber identifier to require is made by each Managed Care Organization and their respective Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM), resulting in a number of methods being used to identify prescribers on pharmacy claims for South Carolina Medicaid Beneficiaries. Unfortunately, not comprehensive data base is available to link the multiple identifiers to any particular prescriber. The data presented in this report was ascertained by manually linking the various prescription identifiers. While we have attempted to arrive at the number of claims by prescriber based on NPI number, there is the possibility that the totals presented do not represent the total number of prescriptions submitted by the prescribers listed.

Report for Senator Grassley
SCDHHS
Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Ability, 2008	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1629001516	308	130,297
2 1073578506	260	115,168
3 1760430573	233	111,644
4 1023154853	214	100,850
5 1326096660	219	95,075
6 1336231851	187	93,787
7 1629029178	228	88,414
8 1043308356	35	76,825
9 1386752236	187	74,381
10 1467400671	136	65,012

Ability, 2009	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1518069855	353	159,051
2 1467400671	328	157,687
3 1043308356	91	136,056
4 1336231851	218	112,320
5 1023063377	223	110,395
6 1952454324	200	98,977
7 1568668101	224	94,766
8 1508840687	215	91,000
9 1700887189	206	87,719
10 1316912066	129	62,902

Report for Senator Grassley
 SCDHHS
 Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Geodon, 2008		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1023063377	127	57,270
2 1356301360	97	47,219
3 1467400671	127	46,899
4 1578666731	112	41,448
5 1760430573	94	35,442
6 1386752236	106	32,288
7 1467400671	95	30,318
8 1336231851	60	29,360
9 1598862179	54	28,301
10 1356458061	72	25,900

Geodon, 2009		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1023063377	145	68,105
2 1427006808	225	64,301
3 1467400671	176	60,904
4 1851482210	138	55,058
5 1386752236	164	54,224
6 1609895796	122	49,767
7 1316912066	99	40,504
8 1356301360	74	39,913
9 1134111222	70	29,922
10 1508931312	69	28,533

Report for Senator Grassley
SCDHHS
Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Oxycontin, 2008		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1467566968	62	37,762
2 1720019607	68	36,287
3 1255401782	45	34,926
4 1326029976	90	34,725
5 1346253614	23	32,383
6 1235104464	22	26,081
7 1407944085	11	21,611
8 1528045978	49	19,345
9 1730164229	28	18,150
10 1093768616	13	17,037

Oxycontin, 2009		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1528045978	100	68,058
2 1871609388	49	47,355
3 1346253614	22	37,749
4 1720019607	44	33,706
5 1235154998	33	32,997
6 1235104464	22	26,081
7 1700833878	27	25,414
8 1467566968	27	24,690
9 1750492526	10	24,685
10 1760426241	11	23,143

Report for Senator Grassley
 SCDHHS
 Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Seroquel, 2008		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions		
1 1316912066	483		190,265
2 102306377	390		259,280
3 1407992803	553		156,859
4 1578666731	269		126,201
5 1508814047	289		91,713
6 1427006808	261		90,768
7 1578655205	211		88,523
8 1073578506	182		74,324
9 1982716437	130		71,515
10 1609895796	183		54,910

Seroquel, 2009		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions		
1 1316912066	517		243,343
2 1407992803	466		162,086
3 102306377	308		143,604
4 1427006808	272		133,666
5 1982716437	238		115,694
6 1861406027	173		100,601
7 1578666731	173		93,823
8 1609895796	277		88,828
9 1467400671	220		84,768
10 1346217601	148		70,939

Report for Senator Grassley
 SCDHHS
 Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Risperdal, 2008		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Prescriptions		
1 1316912066	919		230,546
2 1003835190	406		127,459
3 1407992803	505		116,884
4 1063481844	582		114,431
5 1073578506	495		106,269
6 1821106774	344		102,657
7 1538170998	398		97,916
8 1578655205	232		82,189
9 1851463566	326		64,899
10 1356309967	353		62,834

Risperdal, 2009		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Prescriptions		
1 1063481844	799		59,058
2 1316912066	817		55,586
3 1003835190	218		50,984
4 1609895796	425		42,478
5 1336175603	221		39,355
6 1154349504	367		37,330
7 1588755938	81		34,684
8 1407992803	425		33,391
9 1356309967	378		24,372
10 1629001516	305		24,168

Report for Senator Grassley
 SCDHHS
 Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Roxidocone, 2008		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions		
1 1720019607	367		27,443
2 1124266911	172		11,572
3 1144233735	86		10,764
4 1619954377	117		10,126
5 1528045978	186		8,561
6 1255401782	142		7,343
7 1417972548	141		6,846
8 1538157334	57		5,512
9 1659325124	56		5,293
10 1871609388	49		5,025

Roxidocone, 2009		Total	Total Billed to Medicaid
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions		
1 1720019607	494		78,215
2 1144233735	99		52,468
3 1528045978	197		16,772
4 1255401782	158		15,348
5 1871609388	88		13,858
6 1114139854	85		8,388
7 1124266911	79		8,223
8 1659325124	54		7,308
9 1093792608	45		6,139
10 1538157334	57		5,512

Report for Senator Grassley
 SCDHHS
 Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Xanax, 2008		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1891746830	1,054	19,183
2 1295794428	708	16,070
3 1417988072	1,131	9,018
4 1295825370	738	8,497
5 1477509354	140	7,739
6 1427006808	676	7,683
7 1386681526	556	6,856
8 1679503874	556	6,472
9 1023016904	117	6,038
10 1760475057	137	5,022

Xanax, 2009		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1891746830	1,073	16,130
2 1508919879	65	8,879
3 1295825370	588	7,664
4 1295794428	465	7,307
5 1023016904	150	6,186
6 1427006808	485	6,002
7 1184694168	111	5,832
8 1417988072	787	5,719
9 1457303992	63	5,607
10 1851365498	408	5,378

Report for Senator Grassley
SCDHHS
Report of Atypical Anti-psychotics and Pain Medications

Zyprexa, 2008		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1760430573	329	217,306
2 1316912066	427	199,105
3 1225003973	196	131,154
4 1073578506	147	96,125
5 1508814047	133	88,347
6 1407992803	235	85,877
7 APRN000027	140	79,024
8 1447234547	116	76,192
9 1336287762	88	72,417
10 1336231851	97	65,588

Zyprexa, 2009		
Prescriber Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Total Billed to Medicaid
1 1316912066	487	255,961
2 1760430573	197	139,851
3 1225003973	168	124,742
4 1356301360	126	100,349
5 1912039108	144	93,772
6 1407992803	218	79,783
7 1023063377	134	78,219
8 1053318212	101	72,918
9 1700998465	103	69,918
10 1851463566	141	58,018

From: Lena Aquino
To: Annmarie McCanne
CC: Brenda James
Date: 5/7/2010 11:55 AM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Report for Senator Grassley

>>> "Downey, Brian (Finance-Rep)" <Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov> 5/6/2010 5:19 PM >>>
Thank you very much,

Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: Lena Aquino [mailto:GIRGIS@scdhhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 5:19 PM
To: Downey, Brian (Finance-Rep)
Cc: Felicity Myers
Subject: Report for Senator Grassley

Mr. Downey,

Felicity Myers asked that I try resending the attached information.
Please let me know if you are unable to open this document. I'm also going to fax this information.
Thank you.

Lena G. Aquino
Medicaid Eligibility & Beneficiary Services SCDHHS
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-2502
FAX (803) 255-8235
girgis@scdhhs.gov

Confidentiality Note

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information, including health information, that is privileged, confidential, and the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

If you have received this in error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message.