


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Majors</i>	DATE <i>8-17-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>101085</i></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>Cc: Ms. Fortner</i>  </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

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

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August 12, 2009

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AUG 17 2009

Ms. Emma Forkner, Director
Department of Health & Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201-8206

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Ms. Forkner:

I am writing to call your attention to the most recent products of our long-time work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on prescription drug use and expenditures in Medicaid.

State-by-state and national tables ("Statistical Compendiums") for 1999 and 2001 through 2005 are now available on the CMS web site at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidDataSourcesGenInfo/08_MedicaidPharmacy.asp, and there is a June 2009 Chartbook on the Mathematica web site that highlights key comparisons for 2005 and trends from 1999-2005: <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/chartbook2005.pdf>. There are separate sets of tables and graphs each year for dual eligible beneficiaries (whose drug coverage shifted to Medicare in 2006) and nondual beneficiaries.

The tables and chartbook can answer questions like:

- Where did my state rank nationally in 2005 in terms of average monthly drug expenditures for nonduals? (Chartbook, Exhibit 18)
- Where did we rank in terms of generic prescribing? (Chartbook, Exhibit 19)
- Where did we rank in terms of monthly drug expenditures for aged, disabled, adult, and child beneficiaries? (Statistical Compendium, Table N.3)
- How much did we spend on antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs for children? (Statistical Compendium, Tables ND.7A and ND.7B)
- How much did we spend on drugs for duals that are excluded by statute from Part D coverage? (Statistical Compendium, Tables D.11 through D.13)

While the 2005 data are somewhat old, they provide the basis for uniform comparisons among states. If you find that your state was an outlier in 2005 in ways that may be significant to you, you can use your own more current prescription drug claims data to drill down into the issue to determine how things may have changed in your state since 2005.

There is a June 2007 issue brief on the Mathematica web site ("New Medicaid Drug Use and Cost Data Highlight Issues for States After Medicare Part D") that discusses more ways in which this prescription drug information may be useful to you: <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/medicaiddruguse.pdf>.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions or need anything more, please don't hesitate to call (202-484-4520) or send me an e-mail (jverdier@mathematica-mpr.com).

Sincerely,

