



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Medicaid Management Information Systems



Background

MMIS stands for Medicaid Management Information System. The MMIS is an integration of computer systems that work together to process Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids™ claims and other pertinent information related to the management of the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids™ programs. The system is designed to facilitate the management of claims payment, reporting and system controls, administrative costs, and information retrieval. The MMIS is federally required and defined in section 1903(a)(3) of the Social Security Act and defined in regulation at 42 CFR 433.111.

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is in the process of upgrading its MMIS to ensure it meets all of the new government regulations and is flexible and scalable enough to meet the ever changing needs of the Medicaid program. Medicaid providers and members will find the new MMIS to be more efficient and user-friendly.

Timeline

The fiscal agent is responsible for performing the work of design, development, maintenance and operation of the MMIS on behalf of the state. The fiscal agent uses the MMIS to process claims and other pertinent information related to the financial management of the Medicaid program. The fiscal agent also works closely with DCH to ensure the systems required to run the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids™ programs are running at optimal capacity.

Presently, DCH contracts with ACS to serve as its fiscal agent. This contract will expire on June 30, 2010. In 2006, DCH initiated a competitive procurement process to identify a fiscal agent who could support the new MMIS. In March of 2008, EDS was awarded the contract to design, develop and implement an MMIS that would meet the growing needs of Georgia's Medicaid program.

Legislative Impact

Each time a new policy or rule is developed at the state or federal level, it has an impact on the MMIS in three critical ways:

1. The existing system has to be modified to accommodate the changes in the Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids™ programs. Presently, system changes cost the state a considerable amount of money and they take time to implement, which often causes delays in program implementation and delays in regular service provision
2. The system that EDS is developing has to be modified to ensure business continuity when the new system goes live on July 1, 2010; therefore, policy changes could impact the go-live date for the new system
3. All changes recommended by the state must be approved by CMS and the state matching funds must be available in order to draw down federal funding to cover the program costs as well as any expenses related to system enhancements