Federal review certifies Medicaid payment system

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ProviderOne also performs detailed adjudication of billings, automating many of the providers' administrative tasks, and organizing a wealth of data that will provide much stronger decision support for tax-savinginitiatives and health care planning. The system also may have set a record for receiving certification without a single official finding, said Heidi Robbins Brown, Deputy Director of the Health Care Authority, who supervised theproject since its inception."It's not unusual for new Medicaid Management Information Systems to take years to hit theirstride and win federal approval. It's also not unusual to backstop new systems by paying manyproviders on a lump sum basis, estimating their payments based claims histories, " she said. "ButProviderOne never required that kind of adjustment. It was like the Energizer Bunny – just kept onrunning."Certification means the state can claim enhanced federal match of 75-25 percent back to the operational dates of May 9, 2010, and October 20, 2008 – although that money has already been calculated in past and current Medicaid budgets.The federal certification also did not include any correctional findings – flaws that the state wouldhave needed to fix before the certification could be finalized.

Primary contractor on the new system is CNSI, a Maryland company which has been working with the Department on the project since 2005. The company has also worked on Medicaid payment systems in Maine and Michigan and was recently selected to replace that system in Louisiana.The new computer payer system's budgeted cost of development at launch was $161 million, with most of the project's supported by a 90-10 percent federal match. The federal government invests heavily in the Medicaid Management Information Systems because of the long-range efficiencies the upgraded computers can bring to the state-federal partnership. FOR MORE INFORMATION:Doug Porter, Director, Health Care Authority, 360-725-1040Heidi Robbins Brown, Deputy Director, Health Care Authority 360-725-1040John Anderson, ProviderOne Project Manager

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