

HCAC e-news

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COLORADO MEDICAID SUSPENDS PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS

Yes, what you may have read or heard on the news is accurate. The Colorado Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing issued the following statement on Monday regarding the suspension of Medicaid payments until the beginning of the state's next fiscal year:

"Due to the State's budget status, the Department is suspending processing of Medicaid payments until July 1, 2003. Claims that have been submitted will be processed in July. The next cycle will be run on July 1 and payments will be sent to providers by July 8th."

According to Ellen Caruso, HCAC executive director, the association opposes suspension of payments by the state to its Medicaid providers. This type of action is unduly punitive to the very entities that provide necessary health care services day in and day out to Colorado Medicaid program beneficiaries. This suspension is especially hurtful to home care agencies in the state because they typically do not have large reserves and often operate on a day-to-day cash flow basis, Caruso said.

The suspension of payments to providers is a result of the state's weakened economy as well as the state Constitution that prohibits deficit spending. In addition, the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR Amendment) was voted in by the people in 1992 and imposes taxation and spending limits on government entities. Many payments to government vendors have been delayed this year including payroll to state employees.

HCAC members are reminded to contact your business banker immediately to arrange short term financing in case you experience cash flow problems. Remind your banker that in recent years, the Colorado Medicaid program has been one of the most prompt health insurance payors and that you will be paid when the funds are released.

VISIT HCAC'S WEB SITE TODAY!

Our association's web site, <http://www.hcaonline.org> averages some 30 visits each day, 7 days a week, or some 11,000 visits per year. Every attempt is being made to keep our membership pages and their web site links current, however we need your assistance. Please check our listings and notify us of any updates.

HCAC links are constantly being updated. Be sure to click on and get the details, any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Click on the links page for the latest in important contacts at:

<http://www.hcaonline.org/links.html>

And have you checked out our HCAC legislative gallery lately? More photos, more legislators, more awards. We keep HCAC in the forefront for your benefit!

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