

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Announces Cost-Cutting Medicaid Drug Program

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove unveiled a new cost-cutting Medicaid program designed to maximize state dollars spent on prescription drugs for Medicaid beneficiaries. Health Information Designs, Inc., of Auburn, Alabama, has been awarded a contract to administer a new Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) and Drug Utilization Review (DUR) service.

“We are looking for the best value on prescription drugs without the reduction or restriction of benefits for Medicaid recipients,” said Musgrove. “This is part of our approach to develop creative and cost-effective programs to address Mississippi’s health care needs.”

Health Information Designs will help evaluate the state’s Medicaid pharmacy program and make recommendations for changes designed to help reduce drug costs. Prescription drugs were the largest single expenditure in the Medicaid program for fiscal year 2001, representing 22 percent of the budget.

“All recommended changes will be approved by Medicaid before they are put into effect,” said Division of Medicaid Executive Director Rica Lewis-Payton. “It is our goal to be a good steward of the state and federal dollars in the Medicaid program, and we believe we can do that through effective pharmacy management.”