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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Physician, PA Community Seek to Ensure a Smooth Transition to Medicaid Managed Care

RALEIGH – Tomorrow the state’s long-awaited transition to Medicaid managed care becomes a reality. As with any major change, there are sure to be things that do not go according to plan, and the NC Medical Society (NCMS), the NC Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP), the NC Pediatric Society and the NC Psychiatric Association along with other health care stakeholders have jointly developed a process we hope will help our thousands of physician and PA members statewide deal with this momentous shift in how services will be delivered to patients covered by Medicaid.

Last week we published our Medicaid Transformation webpage, which includes resources and contacts to help medical practices troubleshoot any issues they may encounter. We also have developed a special form where members can log any persistent problems so we can better aggregate common complaints and elevate them to the proper officials to be addressed and resolved. [View the NCMS Medicaid Transformation page.](#)

Here is what our health care leadership is saying about the transition:

“This change has been a long time coming and we want to minimize any disruption it may cause our physician and PA members and their patients,” said NCMS President **Philip Brown, Jr., MD**. “The state is focused on some innovative approaches to Medicaid managed care, including seeking to address social determinants of health. We support this wholistic approach and hope this transformation will ultimately accrue to improving the health of the most vulnerable North Carolinians.”

“Primary care should be the foundation of every health care system,” said **Jessica L. Triche, MD, FAAFP**, President of the NC Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP). “We are pleased that NC Medicaid is focusing on moving toward health and preventing disease as part of this change. We look forward to continuing to work with the state to make sure all Medicaid recipients receive the right care at the right time by having a long-term relationship with a primary care physician.”

(more)

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Philip M. Brown, Jr., MD, President



“Medicaid reform’s highlight of whole-person care means the system will be focused on the importance of treating one’s mind, body and spirit,” said NC Psychiatric Association **President Alyson Kuroski-Mazzei, DO, MRO, DFAPA, FASAM**. “This will be a major shift for some patients who previously received mental health care through the LME/MCO system. We want to ensure it goes smoothly as early detection and treatment of these brain diseases is crucial to one’s medical and psychiatric wellness.”

“More than a million children in North Carolina rely on Medicaid and Health Choice for their health care coverage. How well Medicaid changes work for kids will be an important marker of its success,” said NC Pediatric Society President **Christoph Diasio, MD, FAAP**. “We look forward to working with partners throughout the transition and beyond to make sure infants, children and teens continue to get the health care services they need.”

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About the North Carolina Medical Society

The North Carolina Medical Society is the oldest professional member organization in North Carolina, representing physicians and physician assistants who practice in the state. Founded in 1849, the Society seeks to provide leadership in medicine by uniting, serving and representing physicians and their health care teams to enhance the health of North Carolinians.

About the NC Academy of Family Physicians

The North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, Inc. (NCAFP) is a non-profit professional association headquartered in Raleigh representing over 4,200 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students across North Carolina. The NCAFP is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, based in Leawood, Kansas.

About the NC Pediatric Society

Founded in 1931, the North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPeds) is the state affiliate Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics with more than 2,000 pediatrician and pediatric health professional members. Its mission is to empower pediatricians and its partners to foster the physical, social, and emotional well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

About the NC Psychiatric Association

The North Carolina Psychiatric Association is the professional medical organization that represents 1000 NC physicians who specialize in psychiatry. Its mission is to promote the highest quality care for North Carolina residents with mental illness, including substance use disorders; advance and represent the profession of psychiatry and medicine in North Carolina; and serve the professional needs of its membership.