



we need

Government Health IT

Search
GovernmentHealthIT



[Advanced Search](#)

OUR SITES CURRENT ISSUE SPOTLIGHT ON [SUBSCRIBE](#) [BLOGS](#) [E-SEMINARS](#) RESOURCE CENTER EVENTS JOBS ABOUT US

[Print](#) | [Email](#) | [Comment](#) | [Subscribe](#)

E-prescribing PDAs save millions for Mississippi Medicaid

By [Nancy Ferris](#)
Published on [September 13, 2007](#)

Related story links

[E-prescribing rule could save taxpayers \\$26 billion, association says](#)

[Tennessee governor urges simplicity in e-health](#)

[An e-prescription for Medicaid](#)

[Free e-prescription software initiative launches](#)

Newsletters

Subscribe to the [Government Health IT newsletter](#) to receive all the latest in news, features and online resources.

Mississippi's Medicaid program is saving about \$1.2 million per month in prescription costs as a result of equipping 225 doctors with handheld e-prescribing devices.

State officials say the system not only reduces medication costs, it also increases the quality of care for patients. That's because doctors have access to patients' recent medication histories and can avoid prescribing medicines that would interact with ones they are already taking.

In addition, doctors can find out whether patients are filling and refilling their prescriptions. This allows them to detect when patients' continued poor health is due to noncompliance with the doctors' treatment plans.

Prescribers who use the handheld devices write fewer prescriptions on average, state officials said, and those prescriptions are likely to cost the state less.

After 18 months of steady savings, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is negotiating with its contractor to expand the e-prescribing program, officials said.

Besides cutting drug costs, the state is saving nearly \$27,000 a month on hospitalizations avoided because the doctors are getting real-time alerts about drug interactions, they said.

The program costs the state about \$35,000 per month, so the hospitalization savings come close to covering the cost of the handheld devices from Informed Decisions, based in Tampa, Fla.

Florida has launched a similar program, with comparable results.

Asked whether there was any negative aspect to the program, Mississippi officials said they knew of none.

"I can see which medications patients are taking regardless of who prescribed them. As a result, we are now able to keep comprehensive, up-to-date medication lists for all our patients," said Dr. Kurt Bruckmeier, who cares for about 200 Medicaid beneficiaries through Pacific Physicians Services in Hattiesburg, Miss. "It has also helped identify drug abusers who would very likely have gone undetected were it not for our ability to evaluate the full scope of prescriptions they were taking."

[Most viewed](#) [Most E-mailed](#)

[Florida launches EHR project for Medicaid recipients](#)

[Picking up the check for EMRs](#)

[Federal agencies told to plan for implementing health IT](#)

[Mandate e-prescribing, committee advises HHS secretary](#)

[Medicare docs can get bonuses for using EHRs and e-prescribing in 2008](#)

[The mountain cure](#)

[CMS to doctors: Stop using computer-generated faxes to send prescriptions](#)

[Federal agencies told to plan for implementing health IT](#)

HEALTH IT TOPICS

- [Ambulatory Care](#)
- [Classics](#)
- [Clinical Decision Support](#)
- [CMS](#)
- [Community Health Care](#)
- [Disease Surveillance](#)
- [Electronic Health Records](#)
- [ePrescribing](#)
- [Identity Management](#)
- [Imaging Systems](#)
- [Inpatient Systems](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Military Health](#)
- [ONCHIT](#)
- [Patient Safety](#)
- [Pay for Performance](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [RHIOs](#)
- [Security](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [Surveys](#)
- [Telehealth](#)
- [Veterans Affairs](#)

Marketplace: Products and Services from our sponsors

[Modernize Your Agency's Legacy Applications](#)

Micro Focus offers the industry's most complete Enterprise Application Management solutions. Find out how to modernize legacy systems and extend them to SOA while minimizing risk and time scale associated with these changes. View the web cast now.

[Government Organization Charts & Contacts Directory](#)

Get access to 40,000 key government contacts within 400 civilian and DoD agencies, departments and offices. Build powerful agency relationships through INPUT's Organization Charts and Contacts Directory

[Is your IDS working properly?](#)

Spirent Federal Systems helps government agencies ensure security devices can perform their required capacity and counter all threats with tools that drastically reduce the task of research, recreating and testing vulnerabilities. Click to learn more

[Working Together to Optimize Mobile Technology at the Point of Care](#)

Federal, state and private healthcare professionals now have access to a portable system that can record, retrieve, identify, verify and document all at the point of care. Intel Corporation teamed with Motion Computing, Inc., a long-time provider of mobility products in healthcare, to develop the Motion C5, the first mobile tablet PC for healthcare professionals based on Intel's mobile clinical assistant technology.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Spirent Federal - Increase Testing Productivity!](#)

Spirent TestCenter 2.0 delivers a quantum leap in test productivity through Inspire Architecture™. With its ?Extreme Automation? and Real Time Controls, Spirent TestCenter provides the shortest time to test in the industry. [Click to learn more!](#)

[Enterprise Strategies for Defense Messaging](#)

Solve your integration challenges, DKW Communications, Inc. eliminates the hassles of supporting proprietary systems from the complexities of DMS. [Click to learn how we can maintain seamless interoperability while lowering DMS operational costs.](#)

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact](#) | [Custom Media](#) | [Editorial Calendar](#) | [Events](#) | [List Rental](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
[Reprints/Linking Policy](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 1996-2008 1105 Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

A banner advertisement for Dell. On the left is a photograph of a Dell server rack. To the right of the server is the text: **CONSOLIDATE YOUR DATA CENTER WITH VIRTUALIZATION TECHNOLOGY FROM DELL**. Below this text is a red arrow pointing right, followed by the text: **SIMPLIFY YOUR IT AT DELL.COM/Healthcare**. On the far right of the banner is the Dell logo, which consists of the word 'DELL' in white inside a black circle, set against a red background.