



**For Immediate Release**  
March 19, 2012

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## **NAMD Issues Recommendations to Improve Medicaid Program Integrity**

*Washington, DC* – A position paper issued today by the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) calls on federal policymakers to ensure that federal and state resources go to effective, high-value initiatives to strengthen the integrity of the Medicaid program. In addition to describing the landscape for Medicaid program integrity activities, the paper offers states' perspective on the duplication and inefficiencies that currently exist.

The report, "[Rethinking Medicaid Program Integrity: Eliminating Duplication and Investing in Effective, High-value Tools](#)," makes four overarching recommendations:

- 1) Clarify the roles of the state and federal governments in Medicaid program integrity efforts;
- 2) Improve collaboration and communication between Medicare and Medicaid;
- 3) Invest in resources tailored to individual state Medicaid programs; and
- 4) Evaluate the return on investment and utility of existing program integrity initiatives.

"The increasingly federalized approach to Medicaid program integrity is not effective. At best it impedes and at worst it undermines state efforts to reorient Medicaid programs to focus on purchasing high-value, appropriate services for vulnerable populations," said Andy Allison, Arkansas Medicaid Director and President of NAMD. "The state and federal governments each have a role in ensuring the integrity of the Medicaid program. What's missing is discussion among the partners about how to coordinate these roles and best leverage our resources and expertise."

NAMD believes that states are best situated to identify and target resources to program vulnerabilities. Medicaid Directors are calling on Congress and the Administration to evaluate the effectiveness of the multitude of federal fraud, waste and abuse programs, eliminate duplication across existing programs, and to align incentives for identifying and recouping overpayments.



On behalf of the nation’s Medicaid Directors, Executive Director Matt Salo said, “This paper provides a pathway to address Medicaid program integrity challenges through more effective and consistent collaboration with states and across all federal agencies, including Medicare, the Office of the Inspector General for the Health and Human Services Department and the Department of Justice. It offers solutions for eliminating duplication and inefficiency in Medicaid program integrity and will serve as a critical resource for our nation’s decision makers in Congress. To the greatest extent possible, more strategic investment in tools and resources will add value and support ongoing state-level efforts.”

The paper is posted on NAMD’s website at:

<http://medicaiddirectors.org/resources/publications>

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*The National Association for Medicaid Directors (NAMD) is a bipartisan, professional, nonprofit organization of representatives of state Medicaid agencies (including the District of Columbia and the territories). NAMD provides a focused, coordinated voice for the Medicaid program in national policy discussion and to effectively meet the needs of its member states now and in the future.*