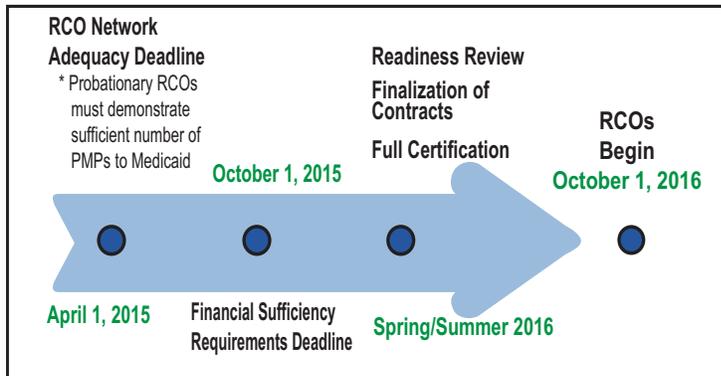


# Medicaid Matters

## Agency review of RCO solvency, provider networks nears completion

With less than a year to go before Regional Care Organizations begin serving Alabama Medicaid recipients, Medicaid is nearing completion of its review of the 11 probationary RCOs' financial solvency and provider networks.

The reviews are part of the ongoing preparations to implement RCOs on October 1, 2016. Regional Care Organizations are locally-led managed care organizations that will provide services for Medicaid enrollees at an established cost when the program is implemented.



Under state law, probationary RCOs must demonstrate that they have an adequate provider network which includes minimum numbers of primary medical providers, medical facilities and core specialists such as orthopedists, urologists, and allergists, among others. The law also requires that the probationary RCOs demonstrate that they are financially solvent and can operate as a risk-based

organization. Probationary RCOs which successfully meet these requirements will qualify to begin an operational, or readiness, review in the spring of 2016. [Read more >>](#)

## Alabama one of five states chosen for “No Wrong Door” Grant

Alabama is one of five states to receive funding to make it easier for people to learn about—and access—the long term services and supports they need. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced in October that Alabama Medicaid would receive \$2.36 million over three years to streamline access to long term services through CARES (Central Alabama Recipient Eligibility System), the state’s joint eligibility system for public services and supports.

Other states or districts receiving grants for new initiatives include Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Virginia. The grants are part of an ongoing partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to support state efforts to advance system-wide changes that make it easier for people to remain living in their own homes and communities.



“This award is significant in that over the next three years the five grantee states will set the standard for streamlining public program access for the rest of the country,” said Ginger Wettingfeld, Gateway to Community Living Project Director. [Read more >>](#)



**Inside:** • Alabama, Georgia connect to securely exchange health information  
• Dental workgroup presents report to Governor, State Legislature

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## Alabama, Georgia connect to securely exchange health information

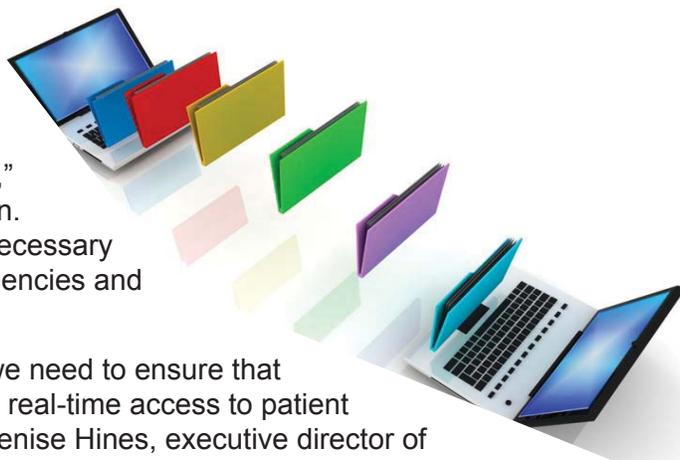
Medicaid patients in Alabama and most patients in Georgia who cross state lines to see medical providers will now benefit from the secure state-to-state connection established in mid-October by Alabama's One Health Record® statewide health information exchange and Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN), Georgia's health information exchange.

The connection between the two states is a first for Alabama which is seeking to increase secure, real-time access to essential patient information for physicians, hospitals and other medical providers at the point of care. It is the second connection for Georgia, which previously connected to South Carolina's HIE.

"By connecting with GaHIN, we help advance the health of the citizens of Alabama and Georgia by putting more complete patient information in the healthcare providers' hands," said One Health Record Director Paul Brannan. "Ultimately, we will also be able to reduce unnecessary healthcare costs, increase administrative efficiencies and improve health outcomes."

"Healthcare doesn't stop at the state line, so we need to ensure that physicians in both Georgia and Alabama have real-time access to patient health information at the point of care," said Denise Hines, executive director of GaHIN. "Having medical history and pertinent patient information from the neighboring states can help improve care quality and save time by providing critical information at the point of care during non-urgent and emergency situations."

The Georgia and Alabama HIEs both leverage a federated exchange architecture model that does not necessitate the creation of new data warehouses or a single data location, but rather allows data to remain with the original providers and facilities until an authorized request for patient information is received. [Read more >>](#)



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## Dental workgroup presents report to governor, state legislature

Alabama Medicaid should continue the current system of dental care while seeking additional input from state dental providers and evaluating various options, according to a report presented to Governor Robert Bentley and the state Legislature on October 1.



The report was a requirement of a 2013 state law creating Regional Care Organizations. The report reflects several months' effort by a workgroup of dental providers and organizations, plus physician groups, consumers and others who were tasked in the law with evaluating the current Medicaid dental program.

The group was formed in the summer of 2015 and met during August and September. During the study period, the group heard presentations about Medicaid dental programs in other states and examined various models of care, including managed care, fee-for-service and hybrid models. The group's report, presentations and membership are available on the Agency's website by [clicking here](#).

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