



July 23, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Stensland
(803) 898-2584
stensland@scdhhs.gov

Final week for SC Medicaid beneficiaries to sign-up for free credit monitoring

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Medicaid beneficiaries whose personal information was included in April's improper release of data are reminded that they have one week left until Tuesday, July 31, to sign up for free credit monitoring offered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS).

Although no private medical records or financial information was involved in that release, SCDHHS is providing one free year of monitoring through Experian's ProtectMyID Alert in order to give beneficiaries peace of mind. This service includes:

- A free credit report;
- Daily credit monitoring to detect any suspicious activity;
- A \$1 million identity theft insurance policy.

In April, SCDHHS sent personal letters to all affected beneficiaries to notify them of the incident and explain how they could best protect their information. To date, more than 14,733 South Carolina Medicaid families and individuals have enrolled in the credit monitoring services through Experian.

To find out more, beneficiaries can call 1-888-829-6561 (9 a.m. - 9 p.m. M-F; 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat.-Sun.) or visit <http://www.myscmedicaid.org/>. The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (1-800-922-1594) also can assist the public with information about protection against identity theft.

The public is urged to be aware of scams. Aside from the letter to affected beneficiaries, SCDHHS will never call or otherwise contact those affected asking for personal information. Beneficiaries are advised to never give out their Social Security numbers or other identifying information to people they do not know.