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FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION INVESTIGATIONS OF HOME HEALTH AGENCIES IN MIAMI-DADE PRODUCE RESULTS

~Preliminary results find significant savings~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today announced interim results of an ongoing investigation of home health agencies and prescribing physicians in Miami-Dade County. Focused on identifying and preventing fraud in the Medicaid system, field operations staff have investigated 147 home health agencies, audited the records of 192 prescribing physicians and interviewed 165 Medicaid recipients as a part of this initiative. As a result, the Agency took the following actions:

- Terminated contracts with 16 home health agencies which were not located at the address on record with the Agency;
- Sanctioned and fined 41 physicians due to the lack of a required plan of care for their patients;
- Referred 48 physicians to the Florida Department of Health for having expired medications in their office;
- Referred five home health agencies to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, resulting in one agency being suspended from Medicare;
- Referred two home health agencies to the Agency's Health Quality Assurance division for further investigation into the quality of care provided; and
- Reversed \$282,098 in paid claims.

"This initiative is just one of several that have been recently completed or are still ongoing in Miami-Dade County and other areas of the state," said Secretary Thomas W. Arnold. "This work represents the great progress our team is making to ensure that every dollar spent is for those who truly need the care."

Identified as an area of concern, Miami-Dade County was the subject of this investigation focused on claims for home health aide visits. Home health aide visits are provided to Medicaid recipients in their home to promote, maintain or restore their health. Medicaid reimburses for home health aide visits provided by a licensed, Medicaid-participating home health agency when these services are deemed medically necessary and when the recipient cannot leave their home due to the increased risk of worsening their condition.

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 41,000 health care facilities and 43 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics. For more information, please visit AHCA.MyFlorida.com.

