



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

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STATE SENDS SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO TENNCARE PROVIDERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The state is fulfilling a commitment Gov. Don Sundquist made earlier in the year to doctors who treat a disproportionate share of TennCare enrollees. Checks totaling \$25 million have been mailed to over 3,000 primary care and specialty providers who are serving the most TennCare enrollees.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to the TennCare program and the citizens of our great state," said Gov. Sundquist in a letter mailed with the payments. "I realize the commitment and dedication you have in serving this important population, and I want you to know that it has not gone unnoticed."

As noted in the letter, about a third of the primary care and specialty providers that participate in TennCare provide over 70 percent of the patient care and treatment to TennCare members. The governor emphasized that the check was not intended to replace unreimbursed costs or any other money owed to providers.

Each of the providers receiving checks is contracted with at least one of TennCare's nine managed care organizations. Specifics about the methodology are available on the TennCare website provider page at: <http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/provider.html>.

The \$25 million allocation was included in the governor's budget presented to and passed by the Legislature for Fiscal 2002, which began on July 1, 2001. Fifty percent of the total was sent to primary care physicians, with the remaining amount divided among specialty care physicians, including providers in cardiology, gastroenterology, general surgery, hematology/oncology, neurology/neurosurgery, OB/GYN, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, pulmonology, urology and other specialists.

TennCare is the state's managed health care program for 1.49 million Tennesseans who are eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or uninsurable.

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