

Hospital Association of New York State Medical Society of the State of New York

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Independent Study: New York's Medicaid Program among the Best in Nation Despite Second-Lowest Provider Reimbursements

**State, Providers Outpaced Nation on Quality, Scope of Service and Eligibility
Measures**

Providers Concur with Findings that All States Must Improve Performance

ALBANY/LAKE SUCCESS, NY (10/9/2007) – According to a recent study by a nationally-known, independent public interest group, New York State's Medicaid program is among the best in the nation for quality, scope of service and eligibility measures, despite the fact that Medicaid providers in New York receive the second lowest reimbursements in the nation.

The study, [*Unsettling Scores: A Ranking of State Medicaid Programs \(2007\)*](#), was conducted by the national, non-profit public interest organization *Public Citizen*. The study scored states under four general categories: quality, scope of services, eligibility and provider reimbursement. It found that New York's Medicaid program overall ranks 8th nationwide. However, the study noted: "New York ranks at or close to the top in three of the four categories (quality, scope of services and eligibility), its final placement being lowered only by its very poor showing in the remaining category (provider reimbursement)."

According to the study, only providers in New Jersey receive lower Medicaid reimbursements than providers in New York.

Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) President Daniel Sisto said: "While there is clearly a need to improve our Medicaid system, this report provides credibility to our contention that despite perennial budget cuts and artificially low provider reimbursement rates, our hospitals, doctors, nurses and staff provide quality care to New York's nearly 3,000,000 Medicaid enrollees."

Rick Abrams, Executive Vice President of the Medical Society of the State of New York added, "Every New Yorker deserves the finest medical care regardless of socioeconomic status. What our hospitals, doctors, nurses and staff continue to accomplish on a daily basis in service to our Medicaid recipients is miraculous. With additional resources, our healthcare professionals will improve upon what is already an impressive record of comprehensive healthcare delivery."

Mr. Sisto also noted that the *Public Citizen* study lends support to a HANYS report, [*Medicaid in New York State: Separating Fact From Fiction*](#), which found Medicaid cost increases in New York over the last several years were due almost primarily to enrollment increases, not cost of service or provider reimbursement increases. In fact, the HANYS study found that between 2000 and 2005, Medicaid spending increased by 54 percent in New York, while Medicaid enrollment grew by a nearly identical 54.5 percent over the same time period.

"These studies will help end the myth that providers are driving our Medicaid expenditure increases," Mr. Sisto said.