

## **COLORADO MEDICAID MEDICAL DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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DENVER –February 24, 2010– The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Judy Zerzan, M.D., Colorado Medicaid Medical Director, has been selected to participate on the [National Quality Forum](#) Steering Committee charged with endorsing measures focusing on appropriate use of medical imaging, such as MRIs and CAT scans, in outpatient settings.

The National Quality Forum is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the quality of health care for all Americans by setting national priorities and goals for performance improvement; endorsing national standards for measuring and reporting on performance; and promoting national goals through education and outreach.

“Imaging services are a large part of Colorado’s Medicaid expenditures,” says Dr. Zerzan. “There is an imperative need for measurement and research to help advise the appropriate and effective use of imaging in a clinical setting.

“In fiscal year 08-09 Colorado Medicaid spent approximately \$45 million on imaging services, about \$17.8 million for imaging in free standing imaging centers and \$27.2 million in outpatient hospital services. Over the past six months, the department has been actively managing these expenditures, suspecting that there may be some overuse of services and wanting to ensure that imaging is being used appropriately to maximize our population’s health and contain costs.”

Colorado Medicaid is nationally recognized as a leader in health care reform. A policy requiring prior authorizations for non-emergent MRIs, CAT and PET scans has already been implemented. The department continues to evaluate health policies to ensure that they support the mission of the department – to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans.

Dr. Zerzan has worked with Medicaid pharmacy programs in Oregon and Washington. She is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver and is the principle investigator on a National Institute of Mental Health grant about the impact of Medicaid prescription drug policy and practices as a hospitalist.

Dr. Zerzan received her MD degree from Oregon Health and Science University and her MPH in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina. She trained in Internal Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University and completed the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Washington/Seattle Veterans Administration.

Dr. Zerzan was a 2008-2009 Health and Aging Policy Fellow in the office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV of West Virginia where she worked on policies related to Medicaid, CHIP, benefits for those dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and prescription drugs.

**About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing:** The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income, elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit [Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf).

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