DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

October 26, 1998

Dear State Medicaid Director:

Enclosed is the Medicaid and Medicare Immunization Resource Guide which was developed to facilitate State Medicaid and HCFA collaboration on a value based, quality-focused purchasing project on immunization. This Guide is the first product of the Value Based Purchasing (VBP) Workgroup (5x5) comprised of five State Medicaid Directors and five members of HCFA's senior staff. The workgroup chose to focus its first major initiative on immunization purchasing strategies for children and dual eligibles.

Individual chapters in Volume I of the guide provide information on the use of specific childhood immunization purchasing strategies and the extent to which they are evidence-based. The final chapter explores opportunities to collaborate with Medicare on flu and pneumococcal projects that are designed to raise immunization coverage levels among dual eligibles. Volume II serves as an Appendix and includes a broad array of background materials on immunization. The information that is presented was obtained with the support of the staff of the Centers for Disease Control.

I hope that you will find it useful and interesting. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Barbara Greenberg by e-mail (bgreenberg1@hcfa.gov) or telephone (410-786-0435).

Sincerely,

/s/

Sally K. Richardson

Director

Attachments

**(To obtain a copy of the Resource Guide, please contact Barbara Greenberg as indicated in the above letter).

cc: All HCFA Regional Administrators All HCFA Associate Regional Administrators for Medicaid and State Operations All State Medicaid Directors Lee Partridge - American Public Human Services Association Joy Wilson - National Conference of State Legislators Nolan Jones - National Governors Association Cheryl Beversdorf - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials