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MEDICAID FRAUD

Q. What is the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare doing to curb fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program?

A. The Department will announce sometime next week (March 7-13) the formation of a special task force to investigate and audit Medicaid claims.

The Department has a newly-established 108 person Medicaid fraud, abuse, and control unit and a 74-person office of investigations and security which reports directly to the Under Secretary.

Background

Medicaid fraud and abuse has received much criticism in newspapers throughout Illinois.

Abuses in Illinois' Medicaid program were spotlighted in testimony, February 16, before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging. It was pointed out by investigators that medical laboratories and physicians bilked the Illinois Medicaid and Medicare programs out of an estimated \$3 million last year.

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