ONE STATE MEDICAID’S STRATEGY TO OVERCOME LIMITATIONS TO A PRESCRIPTION DRUG CAP POLICY USING A 90 DAY MAINTENANCE LIST
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BACKGROUND
In July 2005, a legislative action required that the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) issue a prescription benefit cap to limit the total number of prescriptions a beneficiary could receive each month to 5 (maximum of 2 brand name) for non-long term care beneficiaries utilizing the fee-for-service (FFS) prescription benefit. An exemption to the benefit limit was allowed for beneficiaries under the age of 21 after medical necessity for additional prescriptions had been determined. At the same time as the prescription benefit limit change, the DOM released a list of medications which could be prescribed in 90 day increments to allow for more prescription fills (i.e., the 90 day fill would only count for one prescription “slot” in month one, freeing up a prescription “slot” in months two and three). The 90 day maintenance list has been updated several times since 2005, with the most recent revision on April 1, 2012.

METHODS
The target sample was identified as beneficiaries reaching the prescription benefit limit at least 5 times during the 6 month study period. Beneficiaries classified as long-term care recipients and Medicare dual eligibles were excluded from the analysis due to differences in monthly prescription benefit limits compared to the rest of the Medicaid population. Beneficiaries were classified as adopters or non-adopters based on whether they prescribed 90 day supplies of medicines included on the 90 day maintenance list to any Medicaid FFS beneficiary from April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012.

RESULTS
After excluding long-term care recipients and Medicare dual eligibles, prescription claims were found for a total of 116,114 unique beneficiaries and 11,770 unique prescribers during the study period, representing 362,728 patient-months and 947,677 prescription records. A total of 20,831 (26.55%) beneficiaries reached the prescription benefit limit at least one month, with 3,511 (3.03%) beneficiaries reaching the limit ≥5 months during the 6 month study period. Of the prescribers with beneficiaries consistently reaching the prescription benefit limit (n=4,653), only 316 (6.79%) had written a 90 day prescription for those beneficiaries. Surprisingly, there were 2,263 prescribers who had adopted 90 day maintenance for beneficiaries not reaching the prescription limit, but had failed to do so in the beneficiaries consistently reaching the prescription limit.

CONCLUSIONS
Beneficiaries consistently reaching the monthly benefit limit would most benefit from receiving a 90 day prescription of a maintenance medication. While the 90 day maintenance list has helped some beneficiaries receive more monthly medications, the relatively low number of prescribers utilizing the 90 day maintenance list indicates a need for educational outreach to encourage utilization of the list, particularly to those prescribers who have beneficiaries in greatest need of additional prescriptions. Based on this baseline analysis, a follow up intervention study is underway that seeks to determine the extent of maintenance list adoption following a targeted educational initiative.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / DISCLOSURES
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Table 1: Description of Beneficiary Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group (year)</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>25 Months</th>
<th>1 to 4 Months</th>
<th>Never Reached Limit</th>
<th>All Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>11,722</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>20,910</td>
<td>76.76</td>
<td>62,833</td>
<td>73.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>10,742</td>
<td>8.73</td>
<td>29,075</td>
<td>77.53</td>
<td>63,477</td>
<td>74.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Prescriber 90 day supply adoption and beneficiaries reaching prescription (Rx) benefit limit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescriber Has Benefits</th>
<th>Reaching Rx Benefit Limit</th>
<th>Prescriber Adopted 90 Day Supply Prescribing</th>
<th>Row Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Adopted</td>
<td>Not Adopted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>4,337</td>
<td>4,663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIMITATIONS
Only prescriptions reimbursed at the pharmacy point-of-sale by the DOM were used in this analysis. The inclusion of prescriptions not reimbursed by DOM may change the results.

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