

Report to the Legislature
Health Care Services Contract Payments/Status and
Prisoners Health Care Quality Assessment Report
January 1, 2003

Sec. 902. (1)

Correctional Medical Services, Inc. (CMS) continues to provide quality services to prisoners and to pay vendors in a timely manner.

Status of Payments: The DOC Office of Fiscal Management has begun its third annual audit. The second annual audit showed that the vast majority of clean vendor claims (complete and with authorization codes) are paid within 45 days. High dollar amount vendors are pre-paid by CMS with adjustments quarterly. Disputed claims (those with missing information or without authorization codes) continue to be handled expeditiously by CMS.

Status of Contract: The contract extends until April 1, 2005. The contract is still delivering significant cost savings and has improved the fill rate in physician and mid-level providers serving the Department to above 95% on average.

Assessment of Prisoner Health Care Quality: Quality is monitored through several internal mechanisms. The Department has an extensive internal Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) system in place in health care services. A redesigned contract monitoring system was put into effect at the institution level on November 1, 2002 to further oversee quality of care and other deliverables under the contract. Investigation of prisoner grievances, family complaints and issues brought to the DOC by legislators have not revealed any quality problems generated by the CMS referral processes. Lawsuits are on the decline since initiation of the contract.