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State Tackles Medicaid Costs

By Catherine Candisky

Gov. John Kasich's administration hopes to curb Medicaid spending by paying managed-care companies and health-care providers more for keeping patients healthy and less for services provided when they are sick.

Greg Moody, head of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, said Ohio taxpayers pay a lot for some of the nation's highest rates of infant mortality, child obesity and breast-cancer deaths. Despite spending more for medical care than 36 other states, Ohio residents' overall health ranks 42nd.

The goal, Moody said, is to improve the health of the more than 2 million poor and disabled Ohioans who rely on Medicaid for care and to save taxpayers money.

The administration announced yesterday that Ohio will be the first state whose Medicaid program will join the Catalyst for Payment Reform, a nonprofit organization launched by several large private employers in 2010 to push for health-care payment reform. Members include General Electric Co., Xerox Corp. and Wal-Mart.

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