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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2010**

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**Office of the Medicaid Inspector General Posts Data on Governor's
EmpireStat Page
*Statistical Information Provides Taxpayers with Important Information***

Albany, NY – As part of EmpireStat, Governor David A. Paterson's innovative, data-driven system for improving government performance and efficiency, the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) has published statistical results about its activities in identifying and preventing Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse, as well as in recovering improper Medicaid payments.

This information is available on the EmpireStat page on the Governor's Office of Taxpayer Accountability Web site, www.Taxpayer.ny.gov, under the heading of "Health Care and Vulnerable Youth" (www.taxpayer.ny.gov/assets/documents/EmpireStat/medicaidfraudabuse.pdf).

"This is a major step in Governor Paterson's commitment to improving transparency and reliability in state government," said Medicaid Inspector General James G. Sheehan. "New York taxpayers deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent. By reporting our activities on EmpireStat, the OMIG can provide New Yorkers with the knowledge that this agency is devoted to protecting the integrity of the Medicaid program, while identifying potential instances of fraud, waste or abuse and recovering improper payments."

From October 2008 to September 2009, the OMIG initiated 2,800 audits and finalized 2,203. The OMIG posts final audit reports on its Web site (www.omig.state.ny.us). During the same time period, the OMIG had \$120,365,356 in audit findings and \$144,537,283 in audit recoveries. Recovered funds may take the form of money withheld from future Medicaid payments, voided claims or checks received from providers.

Also listed and explained on the EmpireStat page are OMIG's cost savings activities from October 2008 to September 2009, which resulted in \$1,459,642,018 in savings for the state.

OMIG's Division of Medicaid Investigations (DMI) opened 3,819 investigations and closed 2,508 from October 2008 to September 2009. DMI referred 180 cases to the New York State Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) and 324 to other agencies, including the Office of Professional Add One

Medical Conduct (OPMC), the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, the New York State Department of Education, the Office of the Welfare Inspector General, and the federal Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (HHS OIG).

DMI received 803 fraud hotline calls as well. Of those, 452 were related to Medicaid enrollees, 187 to Medicaid providers, and 164 focused on potentially fraudulent activities undertaken by persons or providers not enrolled in New York's Medicaid program.

Also listed and explained on the EmpireStat page are OMIG's cost savings activities from October 2008 to September 2009, which resulted in \$140,196,536 in savings for the state.

Governor Paterson created the Office of Taxpayer Accountability to save taxpayer dollars and provide property tax relief by shrinking government, reducing costs, eliminating waste, fraud and abuse, improving local government efficiency, and increasing transparency and accountability. The Web site will be updated regularly as new data become available.

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Created in 2006, the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General is charged with identifying and preventing Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse in New York State's Medicaid program, and subsequently recovering any improper Medicaid payments. The OMIG collaborates with a number of other state agencies to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program by stressing provider compliance with regulations, through education programs, and through audit and investigation efforts.