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Blues audit hospital stays

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (HCBSN) has launched a new spread of the same and the sam

tions.
"We are working cooperatively
with the more than 200 participating
hospitals in the state to continue reducing this overuse of hospital ser-

vices," Femmel said. MAJOR PROBLEMS were:

MAJOR PROBLEMS were:

Delays in discharges.
Continued use of overnight hospital stays when outpatient care was appropriate.
Interfective hospital programs to manage use of services.
Existing BCBSM cost-avoidance programs saved more than \$184 miltion in 1985. They discourage unnecessary or inappropriate services and incourage efficient delivery of health care.
The programs included same day surgery, pre-certification of non-interfection hospitalization, and limits on lengths of stay.

"However our audits still show that an average of 27 percent of all the days billed to BCBSM may be un-necessary, or non-acute. Our goal is to first reduce that to 12 percent as agree of a stop-by-step program de-signed to entirely eliminate unneces-sary hospital days without adversely affecting quality of care," Femmel reported.

THE BLUES are urging hospitals to improve efforts to identify the programs or people responsible for the overuse of services and to launch an aggressive drive to change attitudes of physicians and patients about unnecessary hospital care.

"At the same time, hospitals will

identify potential quality of care concerns and expand existing cost-effective, quality-assurance programs to determine that the needs of patients are met, "Fernmel said. Hospitals that afready meet the initial 12 percent goal are encouraged to continue expanding and improving existing programs. Approximately 20 inore hospitals will be audited this year, and will-take in the state will be reviewed. The audit identify the presidents in each hospital reviewed. The loopital reviewed. The loopital reviewed. The loopitals are required to develop the corrective plans to reduce percentages that exceed the program goal.

State delinquent tax haul rises

State Treasurer Robert A. Bow-man announced that the new Michi-gon Automated Collection System (MACS) has collected more than \$30 million since the high-tech computer system began operating earlier this

year.

The MACS system features state-of-the-art telephone and computer technology that enables telephone operators to contact as many as 3,000 Individuals per day who owe the state delinquent taxes.

"The state paid \$7.5 million for the computer system, so MACS has recovered four times its cost in just nine months." Bowman said.
"The Michigan Automated Collection System has been a tremendous success. MACS has increased state revenue, thus casing the tax burden on the honest taxpayer who pays on time and in US. "MACS, along with increased notercement elforts by the Treasury Department, has increased

total delinquent tax collections by \$43.5 million from last year. G.C. Services Corp., the nation's

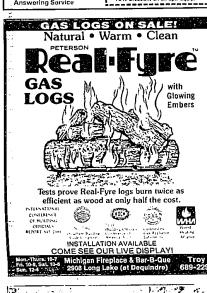
G.C. Services Corp., the nation's largest collection agency, operates the MACS system. The state Treasury Department supervises on-site activities and authorizes all enforcement actions such as liens and levies.

G.C. Services also contracts a similar collection system with the federal Internal Revenue Service at 31 sites nationwide and has increased

federal delinquent tax collections by 35 percent.

"Michigan is the first state in the nation to establish a completely au-tomated collection facility staffed and operated by a private collection agency." Hevenue Commissioner Su-san Work Martin said. "This unique partnership between the public and private sector is increasing state revenue without adding state em-ployees."

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life. See for yourself the difference see for yourself the different being a Girl Scout leader can make — for you and for the girls. You'll want to be a Girl Scout leader, too!

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