

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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October 15, 2012

## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**ALL**

**TO: All Medicaid Providers**

**SUBJECT: Foster Care Health Initiative**

The Foster Care Health Initiative is a collaborative effort, between the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), to better address healthcare delivery to our foster children. As the legal custodian, SCDSS has determined that it is in the best interest of foster children to be enrolled in coordinated care. Currently, there are two types of coordinated care models operating in South Carolina: Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Medical Homes Networks (MHNs). More than 627,000 South Carolina Medicaid beneficiaries are now enrolled in either an MHN or MCO.

Foster children are in the custody of SCDSS by court order and enter the system at risk and in need of care related to the effects of neglect, abuse, and the associated trauma that results. Foster children require a more comprehensive, coordinated healthcare delivery model that promotes better access and improves health outcomes.

With the implementation of the Foster Care Health Initiative, effective November 1, 2012, in accordance with an evaluation conducted by SCDSS, approximately 2,300 children currently in foster care, and all new children entering foster care, will be enrolled in First Choice by Select Health of South Carolina an MCO. Approximately 1,000 children currently in foster care will be enrolled in South Carolina Solutions, an MHN.

Both Health Plans have a wide network of providers in all 46 counties of South Carolina as well as bordering counties in North Carolina and Georgia. More importantly, these Health Plans have committed to investing additional resources in meeting the unique needs of foster children and will work with an advisory committee tasked with promoting improved health outcomes.

Services rendered by a non-participating provider, in the first 90 days beginning November 1, 2012, will be reimbursed when Health Plans receive notification of the services rendered. This would include prior authorization requirements for drugs and continuity of care visits.

Foster Care Liaisons have been identified within SCDSS and SCDHHS and Health Plan to assist providers in facilitating appropriate linkages, at a minimum, to child welfare agencies, hospital emergency departments, mental health agencies, schools, and early intervention/special education programs. Providers are encouraged to contact the respective Foster Care (FC) Liaisons for questions and/or guidance in assisting these foster children:

<b>First Choice by Select Health's FC Liaison</b>	<b>1-843-414-2681</b>
<b>Member Services</b>	<b>1-888-276-2020</b>
<b>24/7 Nurse Line, Behavioral Health Line Access</b>	<b>1-800-304-5436</b>
<b>South Carolina Solutions' FC Liaison</b>	<b>1-803-414-4025</b>
<b>Member Services, 24/7 Nurse Line and Behavioral Services</b>	<b>1-888-366-6243</b>  <b>Dial 2, for 24/7 Nurse Line</b> <b>Dial 4, for Care Manager and Referral Assistance</b>
<b>SCDSS' Liaison</b>	<b>1-803-898-8173</b>
<b>SCDHHS' Liaison</b>	<b>1-803-898-4614</b>

Please join us in supporting this important program to improve the health and enhance the quality of life for South Carolina's foster care children. Maintaining health and well-being and expecting better outcomes plays a crucial role in promoting adoption and other positive permanency outcomes for children in foster care.

Please refer any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin to the Provider Service Center at **1-888-289-0709**. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid program.

/s/  
Anthony E. Keck  
Director

AEK/hcbc

**Note:** To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions