

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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July 9, 2012

MEDICAID BULLETIN

ALL

TO: All Providers

SUBJECT: Hospice Care for Children in Medicaid

Effective immediately, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will provide reimbursement for hospice services for children under 21 years of age in conjunction with curative treatment of the child's terminal illness.

Section 2302 of the Affordable Care Act, entitled "Concurrent Care for Children" removes the prohibition of receiving curative treatment upon the election of the hospice benefit by or on behalf of children enrolled in Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This provision does not change the criteria for hospice; a physician must certify that the child is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of six months or less. However, this provision allows parents with children under the age of 21 receiving hospice services to no longer forgo any other services to which the child is entitled under Medicaid treatment of the terminal condition. Services rendered by a provider other than the hospice must be discussed and coordinated with the hospice provider.

If you have any questions regarding the bulletin, please contact the Program Representative at (803) 898-2590. Thank you for your continued support in the South Carolina Medicaid program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director