



Fact Sheet

What is South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices?

Healthy Connections Choices is a new program that helps Medicaid members enroll in health plans. Beginning in late August 2007, members may start enrolling in Healthy Connections Choices and receive health services from a health plan.

When members enroll, they choose a health plan and a doctor (or clinic). Healthy Connections Choices will help members choose a health plan that is best for them.

When can members enroll in Healthy Connections Choices?

Each region throughout the state will have a start date after which members may enroll. On the start date for each region, we will send enrollment packets to those who are newly eligible for Medicaid and members who are up for renewal that month.

| Region | | Start Date |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Midlands | Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and York | August 27, 2007 |
| Piedmont | Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg and Union | November 1, 2007 |
| Low Country | Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton and Jasper | January 1, 2008 |
| Pee Dee | Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marlboro and Williamsburg | March 1, 2008 |

Can members enroll before they get their Healthy Connections Choices enrollment packets?

Yes. Enrollment is voluntary and current members (with regular, fee-for-service Medicaid) can enroll anytime after the start date in their region.

Important deadlines for choosing

- Initial Enrollment Period: The first 30 days*

All members have at least 30 days (from the day we mail the enrollment packet) to choose a health plan or choose to stay in regular (fee for service) Medicaid. If they don't choose a plan or tell us that they want to stay in regular Medicaid, we will assign them to a plan.

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□ *Choice Period: The first 90 days*

Members have 90 days after enrolling in a health plan to transfer to another plan or return to regular Medicaid.

□ *Continuous Enrollment Period: One year*

After the 90 day Choice Period has expired, members stay in their health plan until their one year anniversary date unless they have a special reason to make a change.

How will members enroll?

There will be four easy ways for members to enroll:

- 1 Enroll by mail or fax, by completing the form in the enrollment packet and sending it to us.
- 2 Enroll over the phone, by calling the South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices toll-free number.
- 3 Enroll online at the South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices website.
- 4 Enroll in person, by meeting with a community enrollment counselor.

Will members have a choice of health plans?

Yes. Members will have a choice between at least two different health plans. Healthy Connections Choices can help members choose the health plan that is best for them.

Do members have to choose the same health plan for all members of the family?

No. Each member of the family can choose the plan that is best for them.

Does every member have to enroll in a plan?

No. Enrolling in a health plan is not mandatory. A member can indicate that they want to stay in regular Medicaid during the Initial Enrollment Period or during the 90 day Choice Period. After the Choice Period, members must get approval from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to go back to regular Medicaid.

Will Medicaid benefits change?

No. Members enrolled in the Healthy Connections Choices program will receive all of their current Medicaid benefits plus the enhanced benefits provided by their health plans.