

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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www.scdhhs.gov

February 13, 2009

Physicians
Other Medical Professionals
MCO
Hospitals
Laboratories
Med. Clin.

MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Medicaid Providers

SUBJECT: Transfer of Reimbursement for Forensic Medical Evaluations

For dates of service on or after February 1, 2009, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will transfer the reimbursement of Forensic Medical Evaluation services for beneficiaries up to age 21 from a contract through the University of South Carolina Department of Pediatrics to being a billable service through SCDHHS. The purpose of a forensic evaluation is to:

- Determine if a child has been abused and to identify possible perpetrators
- Gather forensically sound facts necessary to assist law enforcement officials and to protect the child
- Allow the child to disclose information in a non-threatening environment and assess the extent and nature of the alleged abuse
- Evaluate the child's social and behavioral functioning in order to make treatment recommendations and to establish a foundation for effective treatment if needed.

This service will now be covered when billed in association with a South Carolina Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) service that meets the threshold of state law Section 16-3-1350, which governs criminal sexual conduct or child abuse.

All forensic evaluations must be medically necessary. These services will be billed using procedure codes 99358 and 99359 for initial evaluations and 99366 through 99368 for subsequent interdisciplinary care evaluations using the appropriate modifier. All professionals must meet one of the following credential qualifications in order to render Forensic services:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Physician | <u>Modifier</u>
AF |
| ▪ Nurse Practitioner | TD |
| ▪ Physician Assistant | AF |
| ▪ Registered Nurse or P-SANE
(Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) | AF |

Only Physicians and Nurse Practitioners may bill SCDHHS directly, using their National Provider Identifier (NPI) number. Registered Nurses (P-SANE) and Physician Assistants must bill using the supervising Physicians NPI number in order to be reimbursed by SCDHHS. All provider information must be maintained in the patient's records, which may be subject to post payment review by SCDHHS Program Integrity.

For a complete copy of this policy change, please refer to the Physician, Laboratories and Other Medical Professionals Provider Manual. The most current version of the provider manual is maintained on the SCDHHS Web site at www.scdhhs.gov. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Program Manager at (803) 898-2660. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mgws

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.