

# Medicaid and You

Mark Sanford, Governor • Emma Forkner, DHHS Director  
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Fall 2008

## **\*\*IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT YOUR MEDICAID\*\***

**Dear Medicaid Beneficiary,  
As a result of cuts to the state budget, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services must make changes to the Medicaid program. We regret if any of these changes cause you difficulties. Many of the following changes may not affect you. Please read the entire newsletter carefully and call your caseworker or the Medicaid Resource Center at 1-888-549-0820 if you have any questions.**

### How to Contact Us

#### **General Information**

• 1-888-549-0820

#### **To apply for Medicaid**

• 1-888-549-0820

#### **To find a doctor who accepts Medicaid**

• 1-800-868-0404

#### **Medicaid Pharmacy or GAPS Questions**

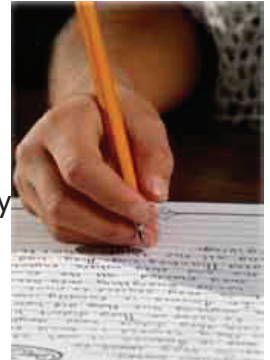
• 1-800-834-2680 or (803) 898-2876

#### **Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Hotline**

• 1-888-364-3224

## **Keep Your Benefits**

Medicaid requires each beneficiary to complete a review form at certain times. Some people may need to fill out a form every three months, and others may only need to fill one out every year.



When it is time for your review, we will mail you a form called the Medicaid Review Form. This form will tell you what information you must return to us. We may need to know how much money you earn, what property you own, or if you have childcare expenses.

**You must answer all the questions on the form and sign it. It is important that you mail this form back to the address listed on the form, and mail it back by the due date. If you fail to return your Medicaid Review Form on time, your Medicaid benefits will end.**

If you have questions, please call 1-888-549-0820.

### Do You Know Someone Who Does Not Qualify For Medicaid?

There is a service called Welvista that provides important prescription drugs for those in need. Those who qualify:

- Must be a South Carolina resident Cannot have Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance.
- Must have some source of income .
- Must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (about \$3,500 a month for a family of four).

### **En Espanol**

Si necesita esta boletín informativo de Medicaid en español, por favor llame a la oficina de Medicaid al 1-888-549-0820. La llamada es gratuita.

## Changes To the Medicaid Program Effective February 1, 2009

- Medicaid will no longer cover nutritional supplements for those enrolled in waiver programs, including the Community Long Term Care and HIV waivers, and with end stage renal disease. Please note that many nutritional supplements can be purchased through the state's food stamp program. Talk with your doctor about ways to get the nutrients you need.
- Waiver beneficiaries will receive a maximum of seven (7) home delivered meals per week.
- Medicaid will suspend coverage for the construction of home wheelchair ramps.
- Adult chiropractic visits will be limited to eight (8) per year.
- Psychological counseling sessions will be limited to six (6) per year.
- Utilization limits will be applied to Speech/Language, Occupational, and Physical Therapies provided to children through private therapists. All therapies will be limited to 50 hours per year with the exception of Speech/Language which will have a maximum utilization limit of 100 hours per year for children aged 0-8.
- Hospice coverage will be limited to Medicaid recipients who are also eligible for Medicare. Participants in the Community Long Term Care Waiver will have the option of receiving the hospice benefit, or participating in the waiver.
- Medicaid will no longer cover Panorex dental x-rays of children under the age of 8. In addition, Medicaid will only reimburse for dental sealants on permanent molars for children ages of 6-15. Ask your child's dentist how this may affect his/her dental coverage.

## Changes To the Medicaid Program Effective February 1, 2009

- Medicaid will now cover one (1) routine physical for adults every five years.
- Durable Medical Equipment changes: Medicaid will no longer cover alcohol swabs; will limit the authorization for cranial bands. Medicaid will now pay for one nebulizer every two years; nebular supply kits will be reduced from 31 per month to 15 per month. Manual wheelchairs will be change to rent to purchase.
- Medicaid will no longer cover adult dental procedures.
- Medicaid will no longer cover podiatry services except when indicated through EPSDT. (Effective March 1, 2009)
- Medicaid will no longer cover adult vision services.
- Home Health Visits will be reduced from seventy-five (75) per year to fifty (50) per year. (Effective March 1, 2009).
- Medicaid will no longer cover expectorants and cough and cold medicines.

**Call your local Medicaid worker or the Medicaid Resource Center  
Monday – Friday 7:00AM – 7:00 PM at 1-888-549-0820 if you have questions.**

If you feel these actions are being taken in error, you may ask for a fair hearing before SCD-HHS. If you appeal before the effective date of this action, your benefits will not be reduced prior to the hearing. However, if you lose your appeal, you will be responsible for repayment of the cost of the services recieved. To request a fair hearing, send a request in writing within 30 days

to:

Division of Appeals, Post Office Box 8206, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

You can hire an attorney to help you or you can have someone come to the hearing and speak for you.

# SCHIEX

Your health and the care you receive are very important to SC Medicaid. That is why we are participating in a statewide computer system called the South Carolina Health Information Exchange (SCHIEEx). This computer system can help the doctors you work with give you better care.

SCHIEEx is a statewide effort that lets Medicaid doctors look-up your health facts for treatment purposes over a secure web site. Your health record contains facts like your name and date of birth, and data about medical services and care you have received.

Because your privacy is very important, only approved users such as doctors and medical staff can access SCHIEEx. They must have an ID to see information about you. All users must agree to keep your health facts private, and must follow all federal and state privacy laws.

While we hope you will participate in SCHIEEx, it is not required. You may choose to stop at any time. Before deciding to stop, please keep in mind that data in SCHIEEx can help you and your doctor make better choices about your care.

If you do not want doctors to see your health facts, or have questions, please call the Resource Center at 1-888-549-0820. Or, you may view a demonstration and get more information at [www.schiex.org](http://www.schiex.org).

## Keep The Flu Away During Flu Season

- Avoid sharing drinking and eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Washing your hands before eating helps keep germs away.
- Increase your vitamin C intake, which may boost your immune system by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Oranges, tomatoes and broccoli are good choices.
- Get enough sleep. Most people need at least 7 to 8 hours a night.
- Take a multivitamin every day to make sure you are getting enough vitamins and minerals.
- Exercise regularly. It's been shown to reduce the chances of getting colds and the flu.

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