

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Providers Indicated**

**SUBJECT: Clarification of Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Policy**

Currently, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) reimburses Physician Assistants (PAs) directly for recipients who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits (i.e. dually eligible). All other services rendered by the Physician Assistant must be performed under the direct supervision of a physician and billed under the supervising physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.

Effective for dates of service on or after November 1, 2009, SCDHHS will only reimburse PAs directly for Medicaid services rendered to dually eligible beneficiaries who are also considered Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB). The reimbursement rate will be consistent with the South Carolina State Plan, which currently limits reimbursement to 75% of the Medicare Physician Assistant fee schedule. All other Medicaid covered services performed by a PA must be performed under the direct supervision of a physician and billed under the supervising physician's NPI number.

It is the responsibility of the provider to determine the beneficiary's eligibility. All dually eligible beneficiaries are not QMBs. To establish if a beneficiary is a QMB, providers can access the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at (888) 809-3040 and the Medicaid Web Based Claims Submission Tool to retrieve the beneficiary eligibility information. On the IVRS, the QMB status is given at the end of the eligibility information. When utilizing the Web Tool, under the eligibility or beneficiary information section, there will be a "Yes" indicator if the recipient is a QMB.

For additional information on this policy update, please refer to the Physicians, Laboratories, and Other Medical Professionals manual located on our website at [www.scdhhs.gov](http://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.

/S/  
Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mgws

**NOTE:** To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>. 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.