

March 18, 2008

ALL-GENERAL 08-01

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Bulletin

TO: All Providers

SUBJECT: New Coverage for Uninsured Children

Under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Title XXI of the Social Security Act, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will implement a new program for the purpose of providing coverage to uninsured children, up to age 19, with family income above 150% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but less than 200% FPL. This new separate child health program will be called Healthy Connections Kids. Upon CMS approval, SCDHHS plans to start accepting applications for this coverage April 1, 2008.

Eligibility

All eligibility criteria, such as the resource limitation, proof of citizenship and identity, etc., which apply to Medicaid, will also apply to the Healthy Connections Kids program. A child who has comprehensive health coverage (defined as coverage with at minimum, hospitalization, doctor visits, x-ray and lab coverage) is not eligible for participation in the new program. A child must be uninsured for 3 months before qualifying, unless their coverage was involuntarily dropped. Eligibility will be guaranteed for 12 months unless the child moves out of the state, reaches age 19 or becomes incarcerated.

Benefits

The benefit package will be substantially equal to the package offered to state employees through the State Health Plan. A few routinely Medicaid covered services such as Family Planning and transportation are not a part of this package. Dental and vision services equivalent to those currently offered in the Medicaid program are included in the benefit package.

Contractors/Providers

Healthy Connections Kids will be administered by Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) only. SCDHHS has formulated a capitated rate and will contract with MCOs to develop comprehensive networks of providers to deliver services. All service provision will be reimbursed to MCOs with the exception of dental, which will be reimbursed using the fee-for-service system.

Enrollment

Children determined eligible will be assigned to a participating plan, normally effective the first day of the month following approval. Individuals wishing to apply should visit our website at www.scdhhs.gov or call an enrollment counselor at 1-877-552-4642.

Please refer any questions to Lisa Douglas, Division of Care Management, at (803) 898-4614.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

/s/

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mj

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