

April 1, 2020

MEDICAID ALERT

TO: All Providers

SUBJECT: SCDHHS Hosting Medicaid Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) Update Webinar

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is hosting a webinar where it will update Healthy Connections Medicaid providers on the agency's response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The webinar will be held at **2 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020**.

Over the past two weeks, SCDHHS has issued guidance to providers, managed care organizations (MCOs), contractors and beneficiaries about the benefits and flexibilities available to continue to provide and access care during the COVID-19 response. During the webinar, SCDHHS leadership will provide a brief overview of actions the agency has already taken to provide additional flexibilities to providers and Healthy Connections Medicaid members, discuss additional ongoing and planned efforts and address questions submitted by providers. To be considered during the webinar, **questions need to be submitted to covid@scdhhs.gov by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020**.

Following the webinar, SCDHHS will publish and update frequently asked questions (FAQs) to assist individual providers and practices with interpreting agency guidance on telemedicine and other flexibilities issued since the start of the public health emergency. Providers with questions about practice or reimbursement guidance should send those questions to covid@scdhhs.gov. SCDHHS will periodically issue clarifying bulletins and answers to FAQs to address prevailing trends and challenges as South Carolina's COVID-19 response continues.

Providers must register for the webinar in order to participate. Providers can register by clicking on [this Webex link](#) and following the on-screen instructions. Capacity is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. SCDHHS will post the presentation at www.scdhhs.gov/covid19 after the webinar has concluded.

Beneficiary and provider resources published by SCDHHS since the states of emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by President Donald Trump and Governor Henry McMaster are available at www.scdhhs.gov/covid19 and include:

- A section 1135 waiver application submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) seeking a variety of administrative flexibilities, portions of which received initial approval from CMS [on March 31, 2020](#);
- A COVID-19 section 1115(a) demonstration waiver seeking to improve the state's inpatient hospital capacity submitted to CMS [on March 27, 2020](#);

- A [memo](#) sent to South Carolina MCOs providing guidance regarding necessary flexibility to ensure continuity of care with respect to prior authorization and documentation requirements for providers;
- A [letter](#) sent to SCDHHS' non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) broker, LogistiCare, regarding continued access to NEMT services;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes related to coverage of COVID-19 testing, the waiving of patient cost share, enhancement of pharmacy benefits, suspension of the ambulatory care visit limit and more flexibilities for infusion centers;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that provide coverage of additional telemedicine services administered by physicians, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants and licensed independent practitioners;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes related to durable medical equipment;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that provide coverage of additional evaluation and management services performed via telemedicine;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that provide additional telemedicine benefits for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that provide coverage for delivery of physical, occupational and speech therapy performed through telemedicine;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that expand behavioral health services covered through telemedicine;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that clarify and provide formal guidance related to early intervention services covered by telemedicine;
- A [Medicaid bulletin](#) announcing temporary policy changes that expand Applied Behavior Analysis services covered through telemedicine;
- [Resources](#) related to the preferred drug lists for fee-for-service beneficiaries and MCO partners; and,
- [Resources](#) to assist small businesses, including clinical practices, and their employees to mitigate the economic impact of social distancing policies.

SCDHHS continues to seek feedback from the provider community about additional guidance that may be necessary in response to this unprecedented public health emergency. In addition to participating in the upcoming webinar, providers can also send recommendations and feedback related to SCDHHS' COVID-19 efforts to covid@scdhhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.