

Aug. 21, 2019

## MEDICAID ALERT

**TO:** All Providers

**SUBJECT:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C Program (BabyNet) Updates

### **BabyNet Referrals Transitioning to Web Referral Portal**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is transitioning referrals for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C program, commonly known as “BabyNet,” from email and fax to the agency’s [secure online referral portal](#). **Effective Sept. 1, 2019, referrals must be made via the agency’s secure online portal**, which is available at [babynet.scdhhs.gov](http://babynet.scdhhs.gov), or by phone (866) 512-8881. Transitioning to the online referral portal will improve standardization and streamline processing. It will also improve engagement with the referral process by providing immediate feedback on referral status and next steps 24 hours per day. The web address and referral phone number are both listed on the new BabyNet brochure [announced in a previous alert](#).

### **Reminder: Updates to Applied Behavioral Analysis Provider Credentialing**

In an Aug. 15 [bulletin](#), SCDHHS announced Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers within the BabyNet network, including supervisory and direct therapy providers, must meet the provider qualifications specified in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) [Medicaid State Plan](#), effective Oct. 1, 2019. Requiring ABA providers to credential with the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB) aligns BabyNet provider qualifications with Healthy Connections Medicaid qualifications and current industry standards. Families electing to receive services from non-credentialed providers may continue to do so; however, SCDHHS will no longer reimburse for them for dates of service after and including Oct. 1, 2019.

A link to the ASD provider manual is available [on SCDHHS’ website](#). Non-credentialed providers can learn more about BACB credentialing [on the BACB website](#).

### **Reminder: BRIDGES Code Service Changes Training Webinar This Thursday**

SCDHHS is hosting a **training webinar at 11 a.m. this Thursday, Aug. 22**, to walk through previously announced changes to some billing codes related to services provided through the BabyNet program. During the training webinar, BabyNet staff will demonstrate how service coordinators will ensure the correct services and payor sources are documented on planned services and how providers will request updates if the procedure codes they need to bill are not on the child’s planned services.

SCDHHS will post a recording of the webinar to the BabyNet website for general access. Webinar participants will be able to submit questions during the presentation through the WebEx chat feature. SCDHHS recommends using the WebEx link below for video and calling into the conference number listed for audio. To participate in the webinar, please follow these instructions:

Aug. 22 webinar (11 a.m.-noon)

WebEx:

- Go to: <https://scdhhs.webex.com/scdhhs/j.php?MTID=m3aada3ddc39fcfeb52c3bf1ad1e14574>

Audio:

- Dial-in: 1-415-655-0001
- Access code: 743 414 835
- Meeting number: 743 414 835

### **BabyNet Policy and Procedure Webinar Recordings Posted**

SCDHHS hosted two one-hour webinars to discuss changes to the BabyNet Policy and Procedure Manual and corresponding forms, which are available on the [BabyNet website](#) under “Resources and Reporting.” Recordings of both webinars have been [posted here on SCDHHS’s website](#). The webinar recordings can also be found by visiting the BabyNet website, selecting the “For Providers” link, and then the “Announcements” link from the drop-down navigation menu.

### **Reminder: BabyNet Providers Should Enroll and Credential with MCO Plans**

Providers rendering services to beneficiaries dually enrolled in a Healthy Connections Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) and BabyNet must enroll with an MCO by Oct. 1, 2019, if they want to serve children covered by that MCO. **This does not apply to service coordinators.**

Enrolling in an MCO allows providers to be eligible for payment by the MCO in which they are enrolled during the continuity of care period (Oct. 1, 2019-Dec. 31, 2019). **Providers currently credentialed with an MCO do not need to enroll as those providers are already in network. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020** (after the continuity of care period has ended), **providers must also be credentialed** with an MCO in order to receive payment. BabyNet providers **must be enrolled as a Medicaid provider prior to seeking enrollment and/or credentialing** with an MCO.

The credentialing process requires a completed credentialing application for each MCO providers intend to bill for BabyNet services. The credentialing **process can take up to 60 days after the proper submission of an accurate and complete application.**

MCO contact information is available at the bottom of the [July 10 bulletin](#). For more information about the MCO enrollment and credentialing process, please visit the BabyNet and Healthy Connections Medicaid integration [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) page](#) on SCDHHS’ website.

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid and BabyNet programs.