



Medicaid **Member Handbook**

SOUTH CAROLINA
Healthy Connections
MEDICAID 

Better Care. Better Value. Better Health.

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Don't lose your Medicaid coverage

Most Medicaid members must renew their membership every year. Healthy Connections will mail you a review form at least 30 days before your coverage is scheduled to end. When you receive this review form, you must complete and return it, or your Healthy Connections Medicaid benefits will stop. Remember: Renew each year. You do not need to reapply.

** The benefits and services listed in this booklet are subject to change.*

Need help, have questions or need to update your contact information?

Call the Healthy Connections Member Services Center at 1-888-549-0820 (toll-free) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Let us know of any changes

It's important to let us know if you move to a new address so we can update our files and continue to stay in touch with you about your benefits, services and eligibility status. Just call our Member Services Center to update your address.

It is also important that you let us know of any other change that affects your household (pregnancy, new baby, child who turns 18, marriage or divorce).

Si usted desea este folleto en español, llámé 1-888-549-0820 (numero gratuito) por favor.

Need to call or visit your county's Medicaid eligibility office?

Please visit our website at scdhhs.gov/site-page/where-go-help for complete contact information for all of our county eligibility offices. You can also call the Member Services Center at 1-888-549-0820 for the addresses and phone numbers for all 46 county offices.

What is Healthy Connections Medicaid?

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is the state agency that manages Medicaid in South Carolina. Healthy Connections is the name of South Carolina's Medicaid program. Medicaid is a publicly funded health care program that

pays for the medical needs of some low-income, aged and/or disabled individuals.

Medicaid is managed by the state, but it is funded by both the state and federal governments. The federal government requires states to cover certain groups of people and follow federal laws and policies. States may also cover extra groups of people and set some of their own rules and regulations. So, Medicaid eligibility, benefits and services are different from state to state.

Medicaid is NOT Medicare

Medicaid and Medicare are not the same thing. They are two different programs. Medicare is health insurance for some disabled or elderly people (age 65 and older) that is funded and managed entirely by the federal government.

To find out if you qualify for Medicare, please call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (toll-free).

It is possible for people to have both Medicaid and Medicare. In some cases, Medicaid can even be used to pay your Medicare Part B premium. If you have questions about Medicaid, please call us at 1-888-549-0820.

Your Healthy Connections ID card

The packet that contained this booklet also included a Healthy Connections Medicaid card for every person in your household who was approved for Medicaid.

You will also receive an ID card from your health plan if you enroll in a managed care organization (MCO). This will be mailed to you after you enroll with the MCO.

Take your ID card(s) with you each time you go to the doctor, clinic or drugstore, and show it to the provider you are visiting. The doctor, hospital, dentist, drugstore or other provider who accepts your card will use it to confirm that you are enrolled in Medicaid.

Tips for safekeeping your ID card

- Never let anyone else use your card(s).
- Don't let health care providers keep your card(s); they should only make a copy of the card and return it to you.
- Carry your card(s) with you at all times, not just when you go to your medical appointments or go to get your medications.
- Keep your card even if you are no longer eligible for Medicaid. Do not throw your card(s) away; if you become eligible again, you will use the same card.

If you lose your ID card

If you lose your Healthy Connections Medicaid ID card, contact your county's eligibility office or call the Member Services Center at 1-888-549-0820. If you lose your MCO card, contact the MCO's Member Services area to request a new card. The contact information for each MCO is in the back of this booklet.

How Medicaid works

People who have Medicaid qualify for the program in one or more of many different eligibility categories. The Medicaid category or categories that you are in will set:

- the level of benefits and services you are eligible to receive; and
- whether you need to choose a managed

care organization (MCO) to help manage your health care

When you were approved for Medicaid, we mailed a notice telling you which Medicaid category or categories you qualified for. You were also informed whether you need to pick an MCO or not. For example:

- If your Medicaid approval letter said you need to pick a health plan, you will soon receive an enrollment packet from South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices.
- If your Medicaid approval letter stated that you have the option of choosing an MCO plan, you will receive an outreach packet.

The enrollment and outreach packets both contain a letter, a health plan comparison chart for the county you live in, information on how to choose an MCO plan and a return envelope. Open it, read it, and respond to it as soon as possible.

If you are required to pick an MCO plan, you must enroll in one, or one will be automatically chosen for you.

Managed care organizations (MCOs)

An MCO is a health insurance company that offers a network of providers such as doctors and hospitals you can visit to receive health care. You can select which MCO plan you would like to join.

An MCO plan can offer more benefits such as unlimited office visits, 24-hour nurse advice lines, care coordination services and health management programs for diseases such as diabetes and asthma. Most people enrolled in an MCO receive all of their Medicaid services from providers within that plan's network. Some MCO plans also offer

programs that help you to manage your health care during pregnancy.

Most Medicaid members have to choose an MCO to help manage their health care.

Other types of Medicaid coverage

Some other categories of members are not eligible for MCO participation and must enroll in fee-for-service Medicaid. Fee-for-service Medicaid is also sometimes called “Regular Medicaid.”

Choosing a health plan

All of the MCO plans offer the same basic services, but each of them also offers extra services. You may want to choose a particular MCO plan because your doctor, clinic, hospital and other providers accept that plan or because of the plan’s additional services, such as disease management programs.

Ask your doctor what health plans they work with, and choose the one that fits your needs. If you are not required to choose a plan, you may find one that meets your needs better than fee-for-service Medicaid. It’s your choice!

If you want to keep seeing your doctor, ask your doctor which health plan would be best for you and your family. You can choose a different MCO plan for each member of your family to meet his or her individual needs.

An enrollment counselor can help you make these decisions. Call **Healthy Connections Choices** at **1-877-552-4642** (toll-free). Interpreter services are available. All calls are free and private.

Choosing and using a doctor

When you join a health plan, you will choose a primary care physician to be your regular doctor. You should make an appointment to see this doctor as soon as possible.

You and your doctor will work together to keep you healthy, so do not be afraid to ask questions. This doctor will get to know your health care history and can help you make the best choices about your care.

Ask how often you and your children need check-ups and shots. Tell your doctor about any health problems or special needs. Follow your doctor's instructions. Let your doctor know if you cannot follow the instructions or if you do not understand what he says.

If you need to see a specialist, your primary care doctor will refer you to that specialist. Specialists usually require the patient to have a referral from their primary care doctor. It is important to keep a primary care doctor.

If you do not understand your illness or what you should do to get better, ask the doctor to explain.

Make sure you can read the name of any medication the doctor prescribes for you and that you understand how often to take the medicine. Be sure to ask your doctor questions if you do not know why you need a medication.

When to call your primary care doctor

- When you or your children are sick or hurt
- When you or your children need a check-up
- When you or your children need prescription drugs refills

- When you or your children need a referral to another doctor
- When you or your children need to ask a question about health care

Making an appointment

When you need to see your primary care doctor, call to make an appointment. If you walk into the doctor's office without an appointment, you might not be able to see the doctor.

Attending an appointment

Try to get to the doctor's office a few minutes early in case there are papers to be filled out. Be sure to take your Healthy Connections Medicaid ID card, your MCO health plan card and cards from any other insurance companies that cover you.

If you don't have a car or other way to get to your appointment, Medicaid offers free non-emergency transportation services to its members. Please see page 17 for more information about this helpful benefit.

Rescheduling an appointment

Once you make an appointment with a doctor, dentist or other medical provider, it is important that you go to that appointment. If you cannot keep the appointment, call the office at least 24 hours in advance to cancel or reschedule the appointment.

If you don't have a primary care doctor

Community health centers can offer you health care if you do not have a regular doctor. Please call the nearest health center in your area to set up a visit. You can get a list of health centers in your area and their

telephone numbers by calling 1-888-549-0820.

Go to the emergency room only for serious medical emergencies

You should use the emergency room only if you have a serious medical emergency. Otherwise, call your doctor's office to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

Make sure you know your doctor's 24-hour telephone number in case you need to call after office hours. It may be printed on your health plan ID card. Talking to your doctor will help you to better understand whether you need emergency services.

If you need immediate care, however, call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Your covered benefits and services

Healthy Connections Medicaid covers certain medically necessary services. Some of the services you can get are listed on the next page. These services are covered no matter which MCO health plan you choose. Contact your MCO health plan to ask about any extra services in their plan.

- Alcohol and drug abuse services
- Ambulance
- Audiology
- Behavioral health services for emotionally disturbed children
- Dental
- Doctor office visits
- Family planning
- Home- and community-based long-term care services
- Home health
- Hospital inpatient, outpatient and

emergency room

- Intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled
- Inpatient psychiatric care
- Lab and X-ray
- Medical equipment
- Mental health services
- Nursing facility
- Occupational therapy and physical therapy
- Prescription medications (not all drugs are covered. If there is a problem filling your prescription, call 1-800-834-2680 toll-free)
- Speech-language therapy
- Targeted case management
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Vision care
- Well adult care
- Well child care – EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment)
- For children, medically necessary care that is not included on the above list may be covered as part of EPSDT benefits.

Note: Medicaid payments are made only to providers of medical services. Payment is not made directly to members (you).

Health exams (screenings)

Adults: A physical once every 2 years is covered.

Children: Well-child checkups are covered through age 21. These checkups are very important because medical problems may be found and treated before they become serious. This program is called EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment).

The EPSDT screening includes a health and growth history, physical exam, nutrition and growth assessment, health education, routine shots, lab tests and vision, dental and hearing screenings.

When is a well-child check up needed?

Children's checkups should be scheduled:

- at birth
- at 2 months
- at 4 months
- at 6 months
- at 9 months
- at 1 year
- at 15 months
- at 18 months
- each year from ages 2-6
- every other year after age 7

Further treatment

If a medical problem is discovered, Medicaid may cover medically necessary treatment even if the service isn't routinely covered. This does not mean that any service provided to your child is covered.

Your doctor will be required to show that the service is medically necessary to treat an identified medical problem. It is important that you follow the doctor's advice about treatment and take your child for needed tests.

Dental

Adults: Medicaid covers emergency tooth extractions for adults and will cover other dental services for adults only under the following conditions and medical reasons:

- Organ transplants
- Oncology
- Radiation of the head and/or neck for cancer treatment
- Chemotherapy for cancer treatment
- Total joint replacement
- Heart valve replacement
- Trauma treatment

Children: A dental exam every six months is covered. Fillings are also covered. Your child should see a dentist at age 1 or when his or her first tooth comes in.

Dental services for children under age 21 are not affected by their enrollment in a managed care health plan. They can go to a dentist of their choice that accepts Healthy Connections Medicaid patients.

Note: A dentist can charge you for any dental service that is not covered by Healthy Connections Medicaid, but a dentist cannot charge you a fee to schedule, hold or reserve an appointment.

Vision

Adults: Only medically necessary vision services are covered for adults. Retroactive services and routine eye exams are not covered. Some MCO plans offer vision services for adults.

Children: One eye exam and one pair of glasses are covered per year for each child.

Co-payments

A co-payment is a fixed amount you pay for a covered health care service, usually paid at the time you receive the service. Some adults may have to pay a small co-payment for some Medicaid-covered services.

Most co-payments are less than \$4, except for inpatient hospital costs, which are \$25. Please call 1-888-549-0820 or your MCO plan if you have questions about which services have a co-payment.

If you are not enrolled in an MCO plan, and the provider accepts you as a fee-for-service Medicaid patient, you can only be asked to pay for:

- Co-payments
- Services that are not covered
- Services for which you have already reached the allowable limit
- Services that exceed the limit of 12 doctor visits per year and four prescriptions per month for adults

Note: You cannot be charged anything more than the allowed co-payment.

The following members do not have to make co-payments:

- Children under 19 years of age
- Individuals receiving emergency services in the emergency room
- Individuals in a nursing facility or ICF/MR
- Pregnant women receiving pregnancy-related services
- People receiving family planning services
- Individuals receiving the Medicaid hospice benefit
- Members of a federally recognized Indian tribe are exempt from most co-payments.

Family planning services

If you have been approved for the Family Planning program, you will not get the other benefits listed in this booklet.

Family Planning is a limited-benefit Medicaid program. It only covers services related to contraception, so Medicaid will pay only for one yearly exam in which you discuss contraception with your doctor, birth control, permanent sterilization procedures (vasectomy and tubal ligation), long-acting birth control devices and the first treatment for some sexually transmitted infections.

Pregnancy services

See a doctor as soon as you think you might be pregnant. Medicaid pays for your care while you are pregnant and for 60 days after you deliver. We want your baby to have the very best chance in life, so make sure you see a doctor as early in your pregnancy as possible. The earlier and the better you take care of yourself, the more likely you are to have a healthy baby.

Resources for new and expecting mothers

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Healthy food for a future mother is very important for a healthy baby. The Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) will help you get some of the foods your body needs to be healthy while you are pregnant. WIC can help new mothers by getting special foods for your baby or children up to age 5. Please call your local health department or 1-800-922-4406 (toll-free) for more information.

Care Line

Call 1-800-868-0404 (toll-free) for a free prenatal information booklet from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) that provides health tips that you and your baby can use.

Help for children with special needs

BabyNet

Is your baby growing as he or she should? If you have a child 3 years old or younger who is slow in learning to talk, move or play, BabyNet can help you. Please call 1-800-868-0404 (toll-free).

Medically Complex Children's (MCC) Waiver

The Medically Complex Children's Waiver is a special program for medically complex children. The MCC waiver is for children with a serious illness or condition expected to last at least 12 months. This illness or condition generally makes the child dependent upon comprehensive, medical, nursing and health supervision or intervention as established by state medical criteria. Please call 1-803-898-2577 (toll-free) for more information.

Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS)

CRS can give your child needed care for a special illness or handicap through this program run by the S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control. Contact information for the nearest appropriate regional CRS office can be found at scdhec.gov/health/mch/ch/cshcn/contact.htm#regional.

Family Connection of South Carolina

Family Connection of SC helps parents connect with other people who have a child with special needs.

Call 1-800-578-8750 (toll-free) or visit online at familyconnectionsc.org.

Federation of Families

The Federation of Families of South Carolina provides support for families of children with emotional, behavioral or psychiatric disorders through support networks, educational materials, publications and other activities. Call 1-866-779-0402 (toll-free) or visit online at fedfamsc.org.

Transportation assistance

Non-emergency transportation is available for most Medicaid members for doctor appointments, dialysis, x-rays, lab work, drugstore or other medical appointments.

To ask for a ride, call the Healthy Connections transportation broker between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at least three days before your appointment. To cancel a ride, call at least 24 hours in advance. There are different phone numbers to call depending on where you live. Please refer to the list below for the correct number to call in your county.

If you live in any of the following counties, call 1-866-910-7688 (toll-free):

Abbeville	Anderson	Cherokee
Edgefield	Greenville	Greenwood
Laurens	McCormick	Oconee
Pickens	Saluda	Spartanburg

If you live in any of the following counties, call 1-866-445-6860 (toll-free):

Aiken	Allendale	Bamberg
Barnwell	Calhoun	Chester
Clarendon	Fairfield	Kershaw
Lancaster	Lee	Lexington
Newberry	Orangeburg	Richland
Sumter	Union	York

If you live in any of the following counties, call 1-866-445-9954 (toll-free):

Beaufort	Berkeley	Charleston
Chesterfield	Colleton	Darlington
Dillon	Dorchester	Florence
Georgetown	Hampton	Horry
Jasper	Marion	Marlboro
Williamsburg		

What to do...

If you have other insurance

You must tell a Medicaid eligibility worker if you have or get other health insurance. Even if you have other health insurance, you can still be eligible for Medicaid.

A medical provider must bill all other insurance first and must be willing to accept Healthy Connections Medicaid as your secondary insurance.

Note: You cannot be charged anything more than the services' allowed co-payment.

If you have unpaid bills

If you have unpaid medical bills from the three months before you applied for Medicaid, let an eligibility worker know right away. We may be able to pay some of those bills.

For out-of-state services

If you are in another state and need emergency medical care, be sure to show your ID card(s) to the doctor or hospital. Make sure that the doctor or hospital is willing to accept South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid and your health plan.

There is a process for out-of-state hospitals and other providers who will accept your Medicaid coverage to be reimbursed for your health care in such cases.

Your health records (SCHIEEx)

Your health and the care you receive are very important to us. We participate in a statewide computer system called the South Carolina Health Information Exchange (SCHIEEx).

SCHIEEx is a statewide computer system that lets doctors, pharmacists and other health care providers look up your health facts for treatment purposes over a secure website. Your health record contains facts like your name, date of birth and information about medical services and care you have received.

If your medical provider participates in SCHIEEx, you will be given the option to opt out of the exchange if you wish. Patient participation in SCHIEEx is voluntary.

Because your privacy is very important, only approved users such as doctors and their staff can access SCHIEEx. They must have an ID to see information about you. All users will keep your health facts private and must follow all 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 people to see your health facts or if you have questions about SCHIEEx, please call 1-888-549-0820. Your physician will give you the option to opt out of the exchange if you wish. You may also get more information online at schieex.org.

Your rights and responsibilities

You must report changes

You are required to report any changes that may affect your Medicaid eligibility. Please be sure to tell an eligibility worker or call the Member Services Center at 1-888-549-0820 in any of the following situations:

- You move or change your address
- Your income changes
- Your resources change
- Your living arrangements change

This would include a child moving out or your spouse going to work. Coverage for children continues for 12 months even if your situation changes. You still must report:

- If your child's address changes
- If you receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check (also report these changes to the Social Security Administration)

Penalties for fraud

You could be fined, sent to prison or both if you do any of the following on purpose:

- Give false information when you apply or when your case is being reviewed
- Fail to report anything that would affect your eligibility for benefits or the eligibility of anyone for whom you applied
- Give your Healthy Connections Medicaid ID card to another person

Fair hearing rights

You can ask for a fair hearing if a medical service you need has been denied or delayed. You can also ask for a fair hearing if your Medicaid coverage is affected or has ended. To ask for a hearing, please submit

a written request within 30 days from the date on your denial or closure letter to the following address:

Division of Appeals and Hearings
SC Department of Health and Human
Services
P.O. Box 100101
Columbia, S.C. 29202-3101

Assignment of rights

Healthy Connections Medicaid does not pay medical expenses that a third party, such as a private health insurance company or someone who injures you, should pay. You give up your right to any payments from a liable third party to Healthy Connections Medicaid for your or your minor children's medical care. These may include payments from hospital and health insurance policies or payments received as a settlement from an accident.

Civil rights

The Medicaid program and its providers cannot mistreat you because of your race, color, sex, age, handicap, religion, national origin, political belief or your limited ability to understand the English language. If you feel you have not been treated fairly, call 1-803-898-2605 or 1-800-368-1019 (toll-free).

Health information rights

Healthy Connections Medicaid provides you a Notice of Privacy Practices with your ID card. This notice explains how health information about you can be used or released. Call 1-888-549-0820 to request an additional copy of this notice.

Other helpful resources

Medicare

Medicare is health insurance for some disabled or elderly people age 65 and older. To find out if you qualify for Medicare, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (toll-free).

Medically Indigent Assistance Program

This is a program that can assist uninsured individuals with the costs of their inpatient hospitalization. Every county has a Medically Indigent Assistance Program representative that your hospital can contact for you. An applicant must meet financial guidelines and apply within one year of the date of their hospitalization. You can apply for MIAP by completing Form 207, which can be done at any county eligibility office or downloaded at www1.sc.gov/internet/eligfm/FM_207.pdf.

Welvista

Welvista is a non-profit organization that provides health care services and prescription medications to low-income South Carolinians who do not have insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or Veterans Health Care Benefits.

Physicians and health care providers volunteer to see patients at no charge and pharmaceutical companies donate medications from their product lines to Welvista's central-fill pharmacy.

Welvista manages this network of resources, becoming a single source to help qualified patients get the care they need. So, if you cannot afford to pay for insurance, Welvista may be able to help

you find medical care and prescriptions. Welvista can locate a physician or a health care provider if you do not already have a physician. Welvista physicians volunteer to see qualified patients at no charge for one visit per year.

If you have questions or need more information, please call Welvista at 1-800-763-0059 (toll-free).

Managed care organizations (MCOs)

Absolute Total Care

1-866-433-6041 | absolutetotalcare.com

Advicare

1-888-781-4371 | advicarehealth.com

BlueChoice HealthPlan

1-866-781-5094 | bluechoicescmedicaid.com

First Choice by Select Health

1-888-276-2020 | selecthealthofsc.com

Molina Healthcare

1-855-882-3901 | molinahealthcare.com

WellCare

1-888-588-9842 | wellcare.com

Stay in touch with Healthy Connections



Member Services Center 1-888-549-0820
(8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Fri)



Healthy Connections website scdhhs.gov



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SOUTH CAROLINA

Healthy Connections

MEDICAID



The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is the state agency that administers Healthy Connections, South Carolina's Medicaid program. Medicaid is a state/federal program that pays for medical and long-term care services for low-income pregnant women, children, individuals with disabilities and nursing home residents.