

July 3, 2014

MEDICAID ALERT

TO: Providers in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton Counties

SUBJECT: OB/GYN Telemedicine Demonstration Project

Effective with dates of service on or after July 1, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will begin implementation of Fiscal Year 2014 Proviso 33.34, Section E(2) which states: "The Department shall develop a program to leverage the use of teaching hospitals to provide rural physician coverage, expand the use of Telemedicine, and ensure targeted placement and support of OB/GYN services in at least four (4) counties with a demonstrated lack of adequate OB/GYN resources by July 1, 2014."

Community forums were held in October 2013 in the target counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton to assess the need for access to obstetric services in these communities and to develop the OB/GYN telemedicine program. Participating stakeholders included local providers, practice and hospital administrators, Low Country Healthy Start (LCHS), the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), University of South Carolina School of Medicine, South Carolina Medical Association (SCMA), SC Joint Underwriting Association, Palmetto Care Connections, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and other local groups and community leaders.

SCDHHS is partnering with participating Family Practice (FP) physicians in the four target counties for the provision of prenatal care up to, but excluding delivery for low risk pregnant women. These physicians will work closely with delivering OB/GYN physicians in neighboring counties and with Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) specialists from MUSC and USC School of Medicine to provide quality and collaborative care. Enhanced care coordination and case management services will be provided by LCHS in all four counties.

Telemedicine technologies will be available in each FP location for use in consultation with OB/GYN practices and with MFM specialists at MUSC and USC School of Medicine. Participating physicians will be able to bill Medicaid for these services.

Each Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) in South Carolina is aware of this project and should be contacted directly for information specific to their coverage and services. Should you have any questions regarding this alert, please contact Sam Head in the Office of Health Programs at (803) 898-1295, or email Samuel.Head@scdhhs.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.