

Dec. 15, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice of Final Action for Rehabilitative Therapies and Audiological Services Update

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) gives notice of the following actions regarding the update of rehabilitative therapies and audiological services under the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid).

Effective on or after Jan. 1, 2024, SCDHHS will amend the South Carolina Title XIX State Plan to update the rehabilitative therapies and audiological services as follows:

- Update the description of physical therapy, occupational therapy and services for individuals with speech, hearing and language disorders to align with the 42 CFR 440.110.
- Clarify that medically necessary rehabilitative therapy services (physical, occupational and speech language pathology) are covered services as follows:
 - Healthy Connections Medicaid members with full benefits under the age of 21 years are eligible for any medically necessary services.
 - Healthy Connections Medicaid members with full benefits ages 21 years and older are eligible for any medically necessary services with limitations as defined by the agency.
- Adding coverage for medically necessary audiological services for Healthy Connections Medicaid members with full benefits who are ages 21 years and older.

Based on the actions above, SCDHHS anticipates a budget impact of approximately \$4.2 million total dollars per year.

Copies of this notice are available at each South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid County office and at www.scdhhs.gov for public review. Additional information regarding these actions is available upon request at the address cited below.

Any written comments submitted may be reviewed by the public at SCDHHS, Bureau of Policy, 1801 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Robert M. Kerr
Director

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. SCDHHS does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

SCDHHS provides free aids and services to people with disabilities, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, braille, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats). We provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, please contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)/Civil Rights Official by mail at: PO Box 8206, Columbia, SC 29202-8206, by phone at: 1-888-549-0820 (TTY: 1-888-842-3620), or by email at: civilrights@scdhhs.gov.

If you believe SCDHHS has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with the Civil Rights Official using the contact information provided above. You can file a grievance in person, by mail, or via email. If you need help filing a grievance, we are available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf> or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201 or by phone at: 800-368- 1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html> .