

May 28, 2014  
MB# 14-013

# MEDICAID BULLETIN

OMP  
MC  
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**TO: Providers Indicated**

**SUBJECT: Pulse Oximetry Policy**

Effective on or after July 1, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will update its policy to recognize the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Pulse Oximetry Screening test on newborns to detect congenital heart defects. Pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test that estimates the percentage of hemoglobin in blood that is saturated with oxygen.

The “Emerson Rose Act” (Act) became effective September 11, 2013, mandating that DHEC require each birthing facility it licenses to perform a pulse oximetry screening test, or other DHEC approved screening to detect critical congenital heart defects, on every newborn in its care. A newborn may be exempt from the required screening if the parent of the newborn objects, in writing, for reasons pertaining to religious beliefs only.

In accordance with the Act, birthing facilities shall perform a pulse oximetry screening test, or other DHEC approved screening to detect critical congenital heart defects, on every newborn when the baby is twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) hours of age, or as late as possible if the baby is discharged from the hospital before reaching twenty-four hours of age. Pulse oximetry screening for newborns shall be performed in the manner designated by DHEC guidelines located at <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/docs/PS-R016-20130827.pdf>. The hospital reimbursement for newborns is an all-inclusive payment for services rendered during that hospital stay and thus includes the pulse oximetry screen.

In compliance with DHEC policy, Licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives that deliver a newborn in a Birthing Center must also perform this test. In addition SCDHHS requires the test to be performed when a newborn is delivered in place of service home. When billing SCDHHS for the screening:

- Licensed Midwives delivering in a Birthing Center or home must bill procedure code 99499 appended with the “SB” modifier
- Certified Nurse Midwives or other clinician delivering in place of service Birthing Center or home must bill procedure code 99499 appended with a “UD” modifier

The Birthing Center is responsible for following the policy as outlined by DHEC. Medicaid reimbursement for this procedure is \$7.00 and will be paid at the line level.

The appropriate provider manuals reflect the changes associated with this policy. Providers are encouraged to visit [www.scdhhs.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov) to view the most current version of this policy located in the Physicians, Laboratory and Other Medical Professionals and Hospital manuals. This policy applies to all enrolled Medicaid participants both those in the fee for service program and those enrolled with a Managed Care Organization. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Provider Service Center at (888) 289-0709. Thank you for your continued support of the Healthy Connections Medicaid program.

/s/  
Anthony E. Keck  
Director