

October 16, 2014
MB# 14-033

MEDICAID BULLETIN

ALL

TO: Providers Indicated

SUBJECT: New Tuberculosis Benefit

Effective for dates of service on or after November 1, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will implement a new program that offers Healthy Connections Medicaid coverage to persons with latent tuberculosis (TB) or active TB infection/disease who are uninsured or underinsured and who do not meet the eligibility criteria for full Healthy Connections Medicaid. This program will be administered through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

The TB-ONLY Benefit will cover services directly related to the treatment of this disease. The services include:

- Prescriptions and Physician administered drugs;
- Clinical services related to TB including outpatient hospital services, public health clinic services, rural health clinic services and federally qualified health center services;
- Laboratory and Radiology services (including those to confirm the presence of infection or disease);
- Case management services; and
- Services (other than room and board) designed to encourage completion of regimens of prescribed drugs in an outpatient/home settings, including services to directly observe the intake of prescribed treatment medications.

Please Note: *This benefit does not pay for hospital stays or room and board.*

Individuals who are uninsured or underinsured may apply online at <https://apply.scdhhs.gov/CitizenPortal/application.do> for the TB-ONLY Benefit or contact your local County Health Department. Patients who don't qualify for the TB-ONLY Benefit through SCDHHS will be covered for TB services provided by SCDHEC. TB services are available to all Healthy Connections Medicaid members whether insured under a Managed Care Organization or Fee-For-Service.

The Physicians, Laboratory and Other Medical Professionals manual has been updated to reflect the changes associated with this policy implementation. Providers and Managed Care Organizations are encouraged to visit scdhhs.gov to view the complete policy. Please refer any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin to the Provider Service Center at (888) 289-0709.

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director