South Carolina Foster Care Affinity Group
“Improving Timely Health Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care”

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Background: Foster Care Learning Collaborative

- August 2021: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and Select Health joined the Foster Care learning Collaborative, also known as the Foster Care Affinity Group.

- Sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Children’s Bureau within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

- Goal: Support Medicaid agencies’ efforts to improve health outcomes for the foster population.

- Arizona, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia.
South Carolina: Affinity Group

• Meeting for “all-state” workshops monthly
• 1:1 “coaching calls” monthly
• Internal South Carolina team (foster care enrollment process) weekly meeting
• South Carolina state team meeting bi-weekly
• Presenting at CMS Quality Conference May 2023
  • Panel discussion: “Strong partnerships in South Carolina Created Through the Foster Care Affinity Group”
What are we trying to accomplish?

• By Dec. 31, 2023, improve timely access for children and youth in foster care by increasing:
  • Initial well-child visits within 30 days from 44% to 54%
  • Initial dental visits within 60 days from 53% to 63%
## Trends from Monitoring Reports
(every 6 months)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well child within 30 days (85% goal)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<td>Well child within 60 days (95% goal)</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>Dental within 60 days (60% goal)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>53%</td>
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<td>Dental within 90 days (90% goal)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>Mental Health Assessment within 30 days*</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Assessment within 60 days*</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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Data is calculated using Medicaid claims through SCDHHS.
What ideas are we planning to test?

- Targeted Select Health **provider education** (well checks, 99358 code with UA modifier)—Approved/completed June 2022
- Select Health **text campaign** to introduce the Foster Care Team (to facilitate scheduling of well child visits)—Approved/completed November 2022
- DSS **immunization record access** through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control request—Approved/completed July 2022, and DSS—Completed August 2022
- SCDHHS **provider education**—Approved/completed September 2022
Plan-Do-Study-Act (cont.)

- DSS Well-child visits **flyer** — Approved/completed October 2022
- DSS two new positions—Approved/completed
- DSS Marion County—Pending
- Select Health and DSS education for **group care** facilities—Approved/scheduled January 2023
- SCDHHS- **Cúram** replacement card < 30 days—Pending, production tentative on March 16, 2023
- SCDHHS foster care **provider map**—Pending
**DSS Well-child Visit Flyer**

**Well Child Visits**

**Information for Primary Care Providers**

**Initial Well Child Visits**

All children must receive a well child visit within 30 days of entering foster care.

**Ongoing Well Child Visits**

After the initial visit, all children must receive ongoing well child visits based on their age. The visit schedule is based on the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for children in Foster Care. (www.aap.org)

- **0-6 mos old**
  - See EVERY 3 MONTHS
- **6 mos - 2 yrs old**
  - See EVERY 3 MONTHS
- **2 - 21 yrs old**
  - See EVERY 6 MONTHS

**Select Health Reimbursement**

Select Health will reimburse a provider for an initial well child visit when the foster child changes service areas, even if a well child visit was recently completed by another provider.

As of July 1st, 2020, South Carolina DHHS reimburses providers for the non-direct patient care activities associated with establishing a provider/patient relationship with a child in foster care, such as record collection and coordination with various providers and state agencies. Claims for this service should be billed with CPT code 99385 (“prolonged evaluation and management services before or after direct patient care”) with a modifier of “UA”. This code should be submitted along with the appropriate evaluation and management or well visit code for the direct patient care component.

**Combining Sick Visits with Well Child Visits**

Did you know, if a child comes in for a sick visit and is due for a well child visit, providers can combine the visits? Effective July 1, 2019, South Carolina DHHS issued a Medicaid Bulletin stating that sick visits and well child visits completed on the same day, for beneficiaries from birth to 21 years, can be combined and billed using modifier “25”.

**Denial of Services**

If a service or procedure you determined is needed is denied, please email your regional DSS nurse who can assist with denial appeals. (Nurse emails on pg. 2)

**After-Visit Summaries**

After-visit summaries provide South Carolina DSS with the necessary information to address the child’s follow up care needs, such as referrals to a specialist, additional testing, medication changes, or return visits. After visit summaries or full clinic notes can be sent to your region’s DSS nurse email or fax.

**Select Health of South Carolina Care Coordination**

In 2019, Select Health created a unit of dedicated nurse care managers and care coordinators for children in foster care. Select Health’s Foster Care Team can provide care coordination such as:

- Finding a primary doctor or specialist
- Assisting with medication management and medication needs through the pharmacy
- Helping to make appointments
- Following up on any appointments, referrals, or resources given

The Select Health Foster Care Team can answer questions, help navigate insurance services, and educate on physical or mental health conditions.

**Key Elements needed on the After-Visit Summary**

- Date of assessment
- New diagnoses
- Health history
- Medication additions/dose changes
- Discontinuations
- Allergies and reactions
- Immunizations
- Physical exam findings including growth/vital signs
- Developmental and behavioral findings/ screenings completed
- Hearing/vision
- Dental needs
- Lab tests needed/completed/pending
- Referrals to other physicians
- Doctor recommendations/follow up instructions
- Future schedule appointments

**Questions?** Email us at childhealth@dss.sc.gov or call the Office of Child Health and Well-Being at (803) 898-7788. We are here to help.

DSS Form 37522 (Oct 2022) 1 of 2
0-6 mos old
seen MONTHLY

6 mos – 2 yrs old
seen EVERY 3 MONTHS

2 – 21 yrs old
seen EVERY 6 MONTHS
Healthcare Providers

Active Physicians Providing EPSDT Services to Medicaid Children Under 18 Years Old - November 2022

Numbers represent the count in each county of distinct NPIs for providers who are enrolled, active, and have filed at least one paid claim with a date of service in 2022 for an EPSDT visit for a Medicaid member.
• 13-year-old female placed in DSS custody three days ago presents with acute pharyngitis
  • Dx Code Z00.121
  • Dx Code J02.9
  • CPT code 99384
  • CPT code 99212
    ➢ Modifier 25
  • CPT Code 99358
    ➢ Modifier UA
Questions?