

ProviderAlert

To: Select Health of South Carolina Primary Care Physicians
From: Select Health Provider Network Management
Date: June 3, 2020
Subject: REMINDER: Well-Child Visits may be rendered via telehealth/telemedicine

Summary: In accordance with guidance issued by South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), in the [Medicaid bulletin dated April 16, 2020](#) Select Health will reimburse for well-child visits delivered via telehealth and/or telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The information provided herein is reflective of the applicable SCDHHS guidance as of the date of issuance. Providers should continue to check the SCDHHS COVID-19 website at: <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/covid19/> for further updates and modifications to practice and billing requirements given the evolving situation surrounding this pandemic.

To promote the importance of well-child visits during the pandemic, SCDHHS and the SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (SCAAP) have published a well-child flyer located at: scdhhs.gov/covid19/members-and-applicants/importance-well-child-visits. (A copy of this flyer is also attached for your convenience.)

Well-child visits rendered via telehealth/telemedicine will not affect well-child benefits, billing parameters, and other guidelines for in-person care. Select Health supports the AAP recommendation that children under age two receive in-person well-care, when possible.

Telehealth/telemedicine coverage for well-child visits

Select Health will reimburse for well-child visits conducted via telehealth/telemedicine for children through the age of 18. To qualify for coverage, the visit must include the developmental and behavioral screenings, health risk assessments, and anticipatory guidance components prescribed by the current edition of [Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents](#) [brightfutures.aap.org].

- Claims for well-child visits meeting these requirements should be billed using the appropriate EPSDT code (99381-99384 or 99391-99394) with a GT modifier.

- Additional components currently reimbursed in addition to the well-child visits should also be billed with a GT modifier, if they can be reasonably provided via telehealth/telemedicine.

Immunizations

When well-child visits are provided via telehealth/telemedicine, providers must inform the member, parent or guardian of any immunizations that would routinely be administered. Vaccine administration should be scheduled as soon as feasible, following the telehealth/telemedicine encounter. Four and 11-year olds should still receive important vaccines, even if the well-visit is held via telehealth.

Select Health will reimburse for immunization administration when delivered outside of the telehealth/telemedicine well-child visit (on a different day, at a separate location, or through a drive-up immunization model). Claims for immunization administration should be billed on the date of service of the actual vaccine administration. If a provider is unable to offer immunizations at this time, members may be referred to a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) clinic. To schedule an appointment with SCDHEC, members should call **1-855-472-3432**.

Follow-up after telehealth/telemedicine well-care visit

Any member who receives a well-child visit via telehealth/telemedicine should have an in-person, follow-up well-child visit as soon as possible, following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Select Health will reimburse for the well-child follow-up, in-person visit.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

Select Health will also reimburse FQHCs and RHCs for providing well-child visits via telehealth/telemedicine that meet the coverage requirements.

If services are provided via telehealth/telemedicine, FQHCs and RHCs should bill the appropriate EPSDT code (**99381-99384 or 99391-99394**) **with a GT modifier**. These services are to be billed in lieu of the encounter rate and reimbursement will be based on the applicable SCDHHS fee schedule.

For questions, contact your Provider Network account executive or submit questions via email directly to SCDHHS at: covid@scdhhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our First Choice members.