

Important Information for Our Participating Provider Partners

To: All Participating Providers and Facilities
Date: January __, 2022
Subject: Care and Service Coordination Reminders for Medicaid Managed Care Enrollees in Foster Care Effective July 1, 2021

As an Excellus BlueCross BlueShield network provider, you may be responsible for providing and/or coordinating services for children/youth in foster care, in compliance with the New York Medicaid Program 29-I Health Facility Billing Manual, and the Transition of Children Placed in Foster Care and NYS Public Health Law Article 29-I Health Facility Services into Medicaid Managed Care guidance.

Effective July 1, 2021, you may provide services for a new group of Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrollees who require trauma-informed care: children/youth in direct placement foster care and in the care of Voluntary Foster Care Agencies (VFCA).

In 2013, children/youth in direct placement foster care in counties outside of New York City were mandatorily enrolled in MMC. Effective **July 1, 2021**, children/youth placed in foster care in the care of VFCAs **statewide** are mandatorily enrolled in MMC unless the child/youth is otherwise exempt or excluded from enrollment. Also effective July 1, the MMC benefit package expanded to include Article 29-I VFCA Health Facility services for eligible children and youth.

The pharmacy benefit requirements for children/youth placed in foster care include, but are not limited to, rapid replacement of medically necessary prescriptions, transitional fills for children/youth newly placed in foster care, and out of network access to pharmacies when a child/youth placed in foster care is placed outside the MMC Plan's service area.

In addition, upon placement into foster care, a child/youth is required to have an Initial Medical Assessment within the first 30 days of the child/youth's placement. The child/youth may receive care from any primary care physician (PCP) or qualified practitioner in the MMC Plan's network for the purposes of this Initial Medical Assessment. For future primary care visits, if there is a discrepancy with the assigned PCP on the member card, please immediately call Excellus BCBS at 1-800-650-4359 or for TTY/TDD services call 1-800-662-1220.

(Continued on the reverse)

To review the New York Medicaid Program 29-I Health Facility Billing Manual, and the Transition of Children Placed in Foster Care and NYS Public Health Law Article 29-I Health Facility Services into Medicaid Managed Care guidance documents, please visit the New York State Department of Health's website at

www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/behavioral_health/children/vol_foster_trans.htm

The May 2021 Medicaid Update Article related to this VFCA transition is also available on the NYS DOH website at www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2021/no06_2021-05.htm#children.