

State of New York foster care provider update

As a UnitedHealthcare DBP Dental Network provider, you may find yourself in a position to provide trauma-informed care to Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrolled children/youth in direct placement foster care and in the care of Voluntary Foster Care Agencies (VFCAs).

Provision and coordination of services for children/youth in foster care, must be done 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 documents located at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/behavioral_health/children/vol_foster_trans.htm.

The pharmacy benefit requirements include, but are not limited to, rapid replacement of medically necessary prescriptions and transitional fills. Effective April 1, 2023, pharmacy benefits for MMC members, were transitioned to NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy program. However, Physician administered drugs, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies are still covered by UnitedHealthcare when billed as a medical or institutional claim. The Pharmacy Procedure Code manual can be found here:

https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Pharmacy/PDFS/Pharmacy_Procedure_Codes.pdf.

Fiscal Responsibility

When a community provider (Dental, Vision, Primary Care Provider (PCP), etc.) accepts an MMC enrollee as a patient, the community provider agrees to bill the MMC Plan for services provided. The community provider is prohibited from requesting any monetary compensation from the beneficiary, foster parent, foster care youth, the VFCA or Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS). The community provider will not require the child/youth's responsible relative, foster parent, foster care youth, or VFCA to sign any documents that would indicate a financial responsibility for any services that are covered under Medicaid or the MMC Plan.

Consent

The foster parent is not permitted to consent to medical treatment on behalf of the child/youth in foster care. Community providers must contact the VFCA Managed Care Liaison before any community provider appointment to ensure any needed consents are signed by the medical consenter (i.e., birth parent, if parental rights are not terminated, or a designee from the agency, if parental rights are terminated).

Orthodontic Treatment

For ongoing community orthodontic care for children/youth, it is desirable and recommended to continue and finish the active orthodontic treatment utilizing the existing functional orthodontic appliances. In a situation when the new orthodontist cannot continue the active orthodontic treatment with the existing orthodontic appliances due to multiple missing brackets and/or different treatment plans, then a detailed narrative substantiating the need for new orthodontic appliances must be submitted with a prior approval request. Additional information can be found in the *NYS Medicaid Dental Policy and Procedure Manual* located at: https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Dental/PDFS/Dental_Policy_and_Procedure_Manual.pdf.

If there any questions or concerns regarding the information provided in this letter, please immediately call:

- Foster Care Liaison: 1-855-883-5403
- After Hours Contacts: Providers: 1-866-362-3368 select option 8