



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SHEVAUN L. HARRIS
ACTING SECRETARY

December 10, 2020

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal: 2020-69

Applicable to the **2018-2023 SMMC contract benefits** for:

- Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and MMA Specialty
- Long-Term Care (LTC)
- Dental

Re: Coverage of Vaccines for MediKids Enrollees

The managed care plan must provide immunizations in accordance with the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for the United States, or when medically necessary for the enrollee's health. (Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VI.A.1.a.10.a.) The managed care plan must provide coverage and reimbursement to the participating provider for immunizations covered by Medicaid, but not provided through Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. (Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VI.A.1.a.10.c.) The managed care plan must not avoid costs for services covered in this contract by referring MediKids enrollees to publicly supported health care programs for services that are covered under this contract. (42 CFR 457.1201(p)) (Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section XII.A.) Unless otherwise stated in this contract, the managed care plan must pay no more than the Medicaid program vaccine fee for immunizations. (Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VIII.E.16.) The purpose of this policy transmittal is to provide guidance to the managed care plan regarding coverage and reimbursement of MediKids immunizations and their administration.

In the 2013-2018 SMMC contracts, the Agency reimbursed through the fee-for-service delivery system for vaccines provided to MediKids enrollees, and the managed care plan was responsible for covering administration of vaccines for MediKids enrollees. With implementation of the 2018-2023 SMMC contracts, vaccine products for MediKids enrollees were included as a covered benefit in the MMA program, along with the administration fee. As a reminder, the managed care plan must reimburse for administration of vaccines to MediKids enrollees at the Managed Medical Assistance Physician Incentive Program (MPIP) enhanced rates; however, the managed care plan is not required to reimburse for vaccine products to MediKids enrollees at MPIP enhanced rates.

In 2018, the Agency updated its fee-for-service Prescribed Drugs Immunization Fee Schedule to reflect that the managed care plan is responsible for reimbursement of vaccine fees for MediKids enrollees. As the Agency no longer develops rates for MediKids vaccines, the managed care plan must establish payment rates with its providers for vaccine services provided to MediKids enrollees. As a reminder, MediKids enrollees remain ineligible to participate in the VFC program.

Through monitoring of complaint trends and review of encounter claims, the Agency identified compliance issues with coverage and/or reimbursement provisions for vaccines for MediKids enrollees. (Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VI.A.1.a.10.a.; Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VI.A.1.a.10.c.; Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section VIII.E.16.; Attachment II, Exhibit II-A, Section



XII.A.) There appears to be a significant reduction in the utilization of vaccines by MediKids enrollees since the implementation of the 2018-2023 contract. Under the new contract, numerous encounter claims for vaccines and/or vaccine administration to MediKids enrollees were paid at \$0.00 or denied. The managed care plan must establish rates of payment for vaccine products for MediKids enrollees and review its provider agreements and claims processing systems to ensure appropriate reimbursement for the MediKids immunizations by February 10, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact your contract manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Kidder", written in a cursive style.

Beth Kidder
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

BK/sar