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Child Welfare Specialty Plan

The Florida Medicaid program created a new way for Medicaid enrollees to receive services. The program is called the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and Long-term Care (LTC) program. The MMA program is the medical part of the SMMC program. The SMMC program serves Medicaid recipients through health plans, which are several types of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), and specialty plans for enrollees with special needs.

The Child Welfare Specialty Plan

The Child Welfare Specialty plan is designed to provide services to Florida Medicaid-eligible recipients under the age of 21 years who have an open case in the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN). In 2015, Florida law was amended to allow Florida Medicaid-eligible children who are in subsidized adoptions to enroll in the Child Welfare Specialty plan.

The Agency contracted with Sunshine Health as a statewide specialty plan to serve the child welfare population.

Covered Child Welfare Services:

- ❖ All MMA plans, including the Child Welfare Specialty plan, are responsible for covering comprehensive medical and behavioral health services.
- ❖ All MMA plans, including the Child Welfare Specialty plan, are responsible for also covering the following:
 - Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)
 - Behavioral Health Overlay Services (BHOS)
 - Substance Abuse Services
 - Targeted Group Care Services (TGC)
 - Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Services (STFC)
 - Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment (CBHA)

Many of these services have historically only been available through fee-for-service Medicaid.

Becoming Eligible for the Child Welfare Specialty Plan:

- ❖ Recipients who are newly eligible for Medicaid and have an open case in FSFN will be assigned to the Child Welfare Specialty plan, but they may select from among any of the standard MMA plans in their region, and from among any specialty plans for which they have been determined clinically eligible. When the recipient receives the letter telling them it is time to choose an MMA plan, the recipient must follow the instructions in the letter to make a plan selection. If a choice is not made, the child will be auto-assigned to the Child Welfare Specialty plan.



- ❖ For children who are currently enrolled with a standard MMA plan or other Specialty plan and who become eligible for the Child Welfare Specialty plan, please note that enrollment of children into the Child Welfare Specialty plan would not necessarily be automatic:
 - Children whose families actively chose an MMA plan would be informed that they are now eligible for the Child Welfare Specialty plan and that they may change to this plan.
 - Children who were automatically enrolled in an MMA plan would be given notice that they will be enrolled in the Child Welfare Specialty plan and would be given 30 days to accept the change or elect to stay in their current plan. If no choice is made, the child will be enrolled in the Child Welfare Specialty plan.

Medical Foster Care

- ❖ The Department of Health will continue to operate the Medical Foster Care (MFC) program. Medical Foster Care (MFC) services will be provided through Medicaid fee-for-service. Medical foster care will be available, regardless of the recipient's plan enrollment. However, the plan and the MFC team must work collaboratively to place foster children in the MFC program.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is medical foster care a minimum required service under Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) program? Is it in their rates?

No. Medical foster care (MFC) is not one of the minimum required services that the MMA plans must provide. It will be covered under fee-for-service Medicaid for eligible children. The MFC service is not included in plan capitation rates. The Department of Health, Children's Medical Services is responsible for authorizing and managing medical foster care services.

2. Will children receiving MFC be auto-enrolled in the CMS Network?

Children with an open case in the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) can choose among all MMA standard plans in their region, the Child Welfare Specialty plan, and the Children's Medical Services Network (CMSN) plan if they meet the clinical criteria for the CMSN plan. If a choice is not made within with the required timeframe, the child will be enrolled in the Child Welfare Specialty plan. The child's legal representative will have 90 days to change plans, if desired.

To learn more about Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC):

Access the Agency's SMMC Program website at: www.ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC