



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Atlanta Regional Office
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Atlanta, GA 30303

August 24, 2016

MEDICARE ALERT

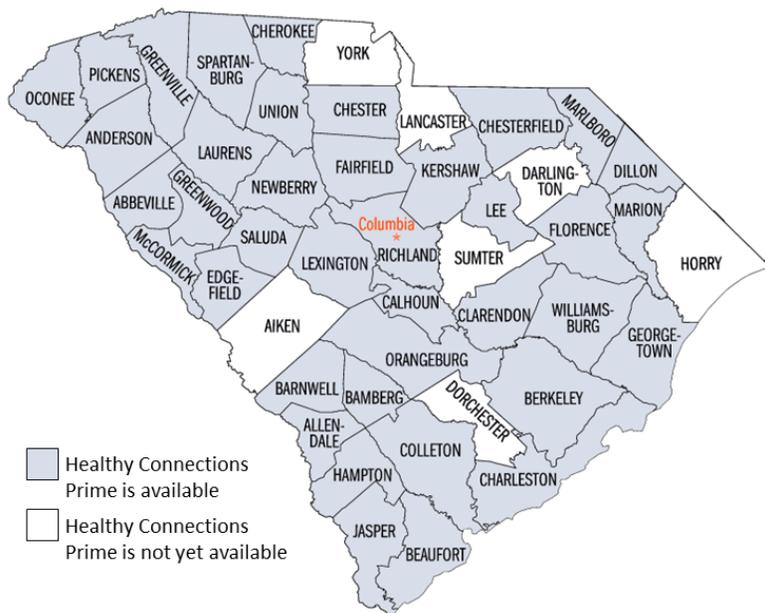
To: All Providers

**Subject: Healthy Connections Prime Wave 2 Passive Enrollment Began July 2016;
More Seniors in South Carolina now have a new health care option**

Healthy Connections Prime is a new program for South Carolina seniors age 65 and older with Medicare and Medicaid. This demonstration program is jointly administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) and is designed to integrate all the services of Medicare, Medicare Part D and Medicaid under a single Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP). Healthy Connections Prime currently has over 9,000 members across three MMPs: Absolute Total Care, First Choice VIP Care Plus and Molina Dual Options.

On July 1, 2016, Healthy Connections Prime increased its membership substantially through Wave 2 of a passive enrollment process that auto-assigns eligible enrollees to one of the three MMPs. Wave 1 of passive enrollment took place in April 2016. After Wave 2, newly eligible individuals throughout the state will be auto-assigned monthly on an on-going basis. MMPs in your county will notify you, as appropriate, if any of your patients have been auto-assigned.

Healthy Connections Prime is a statewide program and passive enrollment has now been rolled out to all counties except the seven counties shown in white on the map to the right. Aiken, Darlington, Dorchester, Horry, Lancaster, Sumter and York currently do not have any active MMPs, but MMPs are working to build their provider networks in these counties with the intention of serving these counties in the future.



Program Details

Providers are encouraged to be part of this important initiative and join one or more of the three¹ MMP networks: Absolute Total Care, First Choice VIP Care Plus and Molina Dual Options. As a network provider, you can provide care to new and existing patients while benefiting from the following:

- **One card** (verify eligibility/coverage for only one program)
- **One party to bill** (no sequential billing – submit to one entity, payment comes from one entity)
- **One point of contact** regardless of service type. (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Part D)
- Support from an **integrated, team-based approach** to care, including the member’s care coordinator. Coordination of all member medical and non-medical needs.
- **Continuity of care** (new members can keep their existing providers for six months while the plan contacts out-of-network providers about joining the network)
- **\$0 copay for drugs for members**
- **No coinsurance fees** for Medicare Part A and B related services. Provider reimbursement from MMPs constitutes payment in full regardless of the type of service.

Can I continue to see my patients who join Healthy Connections Prime even if I am not participating?

If you do not wish to participate as a Healthy Connections Prime provider, you may continue seeing your Healthy Connections Prime enrolled patients as a non-participating provider for up to six months after they enroll in the program. This continuity of care provision is offered to all patients newly enrolled in an MMP. During the transition period, the member’s MMP will also offer a contract or single-case agreement to non-participating providers. After the six months, the MMP will work with the member to identify an appropriate provider within the network.

During the transition period, members may continue their course of treatment with their current providers at existing service authorization levels. Service authorization levels must be maintained for all direct care home and community based service providers during the transition, unless a significant change has occurred and is documented in the member’s long term care assessment and/or reassessment.

Plan Contracting

Providers are encouraged to join multiple Healthy Connections Prime networks in order to provide continuous care to existing patients and to be part of this important initiative to coordinate care. Please contact the representatives listed on our website: <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/SCDue2/site-page/plan-contact-information-0> to learn more about how you can become a Healthy Connections Prime network provider.

For More Information about Healthy Connections Prime

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. If you have questions about Healthy Connections Prime, please visit our Provider Toolkit at <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/SCDue2/site-page/provider-toolkit> or email primeproviders@scdhhs.gov for help with a specific question or concern.

¹ For more information on Advicare Advocate’s transition from the Healthy Connections Prime program, please see the full FAQ on the Advicare Advocate transition on the Healthy Connections Prime website: <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/SCDue2/press-release/advicare-advocate-transition>.