



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), Independent Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers – **For Action**
Managed Care Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **Pediatric and Adolescent Well Care Using Telehealth**

EFFECTIVE: Claims with service dates on or after March 23, 2020

PURPOSE: To notify providers regarding NJ FamilyCare (NJFC) coverage of telehealth modalities for preventive care services delivered to members under twenty-one (21) years of age, both by the fee-for-service (FFS) program and in NJFC managed care partner organizations (MCOs).

BACKGROUND: As per the provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Act by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) was granted a temporary waiver of certain Medicaid requirements under Section 1135 of the Act. As such, telehealth services for providing well care in accordance with guidelines established both by The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit and The American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures program, visits for children under 21 years of age shall be covered by the NJFC program.

EPSDT is a comprehensive and preventive child health program for children birth through age 21 who are eligible for Medicaid coverage and are enrolled in the fee-for-service program or in a managed care plan. This program provides regular medical checkups, dental checkups, treatment and services, at no cost, to children birth through age 21. The goals of EPSDT are to:

- Assess a child's healthcare needs through initial and periodic examinations ;
- Provide health education and guidance;
- Prevent and/or diagnose health problems as early as possible; and
- Provide treatment and referral services as necessary.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures program supports primary care practices in providing preventive care to children and adolescents, and the standards it establishes have been adopted by the NJFC program.

ACTION: Due to the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency, the NJFC Program and its managed care partners shall provide coverage at parity for pediatric and adolescent well visits delivered to members under 21 years of age via telehealth for claims with service dates on or after March 23, 2020, and continuing until further notice.

To qualify for coverage, the telehealth visit must include, at minimum, developmental and behavioral screenings, health risk assessments and the anticipatory guidance components required to meet the goals of the EPSDT program. Benefits, billing parameters and other guidelines for in-person care are not affected. NJFC supports the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation that children through 24 months of age continue to receive in-person well care, when possible. In instances where this is not possible, NJFC and its managed care partners will still provide coverage for well care delivered via telehealth.

Billing Procedures

- Claims for well care visits as detailed above should be billed using the following CPT procedure codes: 99381EP through 99385EP or 99391EP through 99395EP.
- Providers should report a “Place of Service” code value of “02” (telehealth) on well visits delivered via telehealth.
- Providers must continue to bill NJFC and its managed care partners in accordance with federal and State Medicaid guidance, rules, and mandates.
- Providers must continue to verify NJFC eligibility and assist individuals with enrollment as usual.
- Providers must continue to maintain appropriate documentation as usual.

NJFC recognizes that there are components of pediatric or adolescent well visits that will not be able to be completed via telehealth. In these circumstances, clear documentation must be provided in the medical record stating that the visit was completed via telehealth due to NJ COVID-19 State of Emergency and include any limitations related to the examination (e.g., full physical examinations, growth parameters, vaccinations, labs, vision screening, etc.).

When pediatric or adolescent well care is provided via telehealth, providers must inform the member (or parent/guardian) of any immunizations or other services that would routinely be administered at an in-person well visit. Vaccine administration should be scheduled as soon as feasible following the telehealth encounter, any may be billed separately even if provided by another emergency modality such as drive-through accommodations.

It is expected that any services unable to be provided via telehealth be delivered as part of an additional comprehensive in-person well visit as soon as feasible. NJFC and its

managed care partners will provide coverage for additional pediatric and adolescent well visits for this purpose, even if these are in excess of the routine EPSDT and Bright Futures periodicity schedules.

Please refer to www.njmmis.com or <https://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html> for updates to policies and guidance in response to the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency.

If you have any questions concerning this Medicaid Newsletter please contact DXC Technology Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334.

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