

ProviderAlert

To: South Carolina Providers Caring for Children in Foster Care

Date: July 1, 2026

Subject: Important Reminders when Caring for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Summary: The Select Health Foster Care Team would like to remind providers about the importance of initial well visits **within 30 days of entry into the foster care system**. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) provides additional reimbursement for prolonged evaluation and management (E/M) services when establishing an initial patient-provider relationship with a child in foster care.

Important Reminders:

- Initial Comprehensive Well Child Checks
 - When a child enters foster care, he/she must have an initial well check completed, preferably within 7 days, but no later than 30 days, of entering care.
 - **Select Health will cover the well child check even if the child has received one earlier in the year.**
- 99358 Code with UA Modifier
 - **99358 code** must be billed with a **modifier** of “**UA**,” which for SCDHHS, is defined as “**initial visit** with patient in **foster care**.” This code should be submitted along with the appropriate E/M AND well-visit diagnosis if performed or well-visit code for the direct patient care component.
 - This provides reimbursement for the non-direct care activities associated with an initial visit, such as record collection and coordination with various providers and state agencies.
- Use of modifier 25
 - If a child comes in for a sick visit and is also due for a well-child visit, both may be performed.
 - Use modifier 25 and the appropriate E/M code including the well-visit diagnosis and well visit code on claim.
- Select Health Foster Care Team
 - Our integrated care management team works with SCDHHS, South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS), county caseworkers, foster parents, and foster members to answer or direct questions to the appropriate department.
 - For questions or to reach the Select Health Foster Care Team, please call First Choice Member Services at **1-888-276-2020** and press option #3.