



Updated Care Requirements for Children Placed in Foster Care

As a Healthfirst network provider, you may find yourself in a position to provide trauma-informed care to Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) children in direct placement foster care and in the care of Voluntary Foster Care Agencies (VFCA).

Provision and coordination of services for children in foster care must be done in compliance with the following guidance documents: [New York Medicaid Program 29-I Health Facility Billing Manual](#) and the [Transition of Children Placed in Foster Care and NYS Public Health Law Article 29-I Health Facility Services into Medicaid Managed Care](#).

Pharmacy Benefits

The **pharmacy benefit requirements** include, but are not limited to, rapid replacement of medically necessary prescriptions and transitional fills for children newly placed in foster care.

Effective April 1, 2023, MMC members, including children placed in foster care, had their pharmacy benefits transitioned to NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy program. However, the following are still covered by Healthfirst when billed as a medical or institutional claim:

- Physician-Administered Drugs
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Prosthetics
- Orthotics
- Supplies

The Pharmacy Procedure Code manual can be found [here](#).

Provider Alert

Initial Medical Assessment and Primary Care Visits

Upon placement in foster care, a child is required to have an **Initial Medical Assessment within 30 days**. The child may utilize any primary care provider (PCP) or qualified practitioner in the MMC plan's network for this Initial Medical Assessment.

For ongoing primary care visits, if there is a discrepancy with the assigned PCP on the MMC Member ID card, the child should not be turned away. Instead, please immediately call Healthfirst Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm, to rectify this matter.