

Provider Notice: Medicaid Managed Care for Foster Care Members

As an EmblemHealth network provider, you may be responsible for providing and/or coordinating trauma-informed care for a new group of Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) members: children/youth in direct placement foster care and in the care of Voluntary Foster Care Agencies (VFCAs). See [guidance documents](#), including:

- [New York Medicaid Program 29-I Health Facility Billing Manual](#)
- [Transition of Children Placed in Foster Care and NYS Public Health Law Article 29-I Health Facility Services into Medicaid Managed Care](#)

In 2013, children/youth in direct placement foster care in counties outside of New York City were mandatorily enrolled in MMC. Effective **July 1, 2021**, children/youth in direct placement foster care in New York City, and children/youth placed in foster care in the care of VFCAs statewide, are mandatorily enrolled in MMC unless the child/youth is otherwise exempt or excluded from enrollment. In addition, effective **July 1, 2021**, the MMC benefit package expanded to include Article 29-I VFCA health facility services for eligible children and youth.

The pharmacy benefit requirements for children/youth placed in foster care include, but are not limited to:

- Rapid replacement of medically necessary prescriptions.
- Transitional fills for children/youth newly placed in foster care.
- Out-of-network access to pharmacies when a child/youth placed in foster care is placed outside the EmblemHealth service area.

In addition, upon placement into foster care, a child/youth is required to have an Initial Medical Assessment within the first 30 days of the child/youth's placement. The child/youth may use any primary care physician (PCP) or qualified practitioner in the EmblemHealth network for the purposes of this Initial Medical Assessment. For primary care visits, if there is a discrepancy with the assigned PCP on the card, please immediately call EmblemHealth at **855-283-2146**.

For more information related to this VFCA transition, please see the May 2021 Medicaid Update article titled [Changes Impacting Providers Serving Children Effective July 1, 2021](#).