

Department of Human Services Tip Sheet: Clients Enrolled in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program)

Health Services for Individuals in Child Welfare/Foster Care

RAE Enrollment

Many children involved in the child welfare system are eligible for Medicaid which provides physical and behavioral health services. Once enrolled in Medicaid, a child is assigned to a Regional Accountability Entity (RAE) based on the physical location of the child's primary care physician.

- Many children are enrolled in Medicaid before their involvement with child welfare and juvenile delinquency. As a result, the child may be in a RAE that does not cover the county with jurisdiction over the dependency and neglect action
- The Department is revising its member attribution process to ensure children who gain Medicaid eligibility as a result of a dependency and neglect action are attributed to the RAE covering the county with jurisdiction over the action, in accordance with HB20-1237.
- HB20-1237 codifies in statute the state's intended policy to keep children in child welfare and juvenile delinquency in the **RAE in which they were originally enrolled** so that vulnerable children maintain services and do not risk delays in services.
- A child's RAE assignment can only be changed with the permission of the legal guardian.

Physical Health Services

Foster care children who are newly placed need a **well-child visit, including vision screening, scheduled within 14 days of placement.**

- The child may have a history with a specific primary care provider. **RAEs recommend maintaining this connection, when possible, as the primary provider is often an excellent source of historic information.** If the child was enrolled in Health First Colorado before his/her foster care placement and received care, likely the attributed PCMP is the child's medical home and it is best practice to keep this connection. An exception may be in instances of safety concerns.
 - If this is not possible because of the location of the child's placement, the child's RAE can help find a PCMP near the child's placement who accepts Medicaid and has same-day or after-hours appointments.
- All children, especially those in child welfare need **well-child visits** on an ongoing basis, so it is important to find a PCMP that meets their needs. The schedule is as follows:
 - Children age four years and under: based on the [American Academy of Pediatrics/Bright Futures periodicity schedule](#) adopted by The Department under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)
 - Children age four years and over: a minimum of annually

Developmental Screening

All children under the age of 3 and removed from home must have a developmental screening within the last 6 months after their removal. If a screen was not completed, one must be scheduled. These should be completed during the well-child screening completed within the first 14 days. The RAE can assist in locating a screen that may have already been completed and providing that information to the county staff.

Behavioral Health Screening

Children involved in Child Welfare are at higher risk for behavioral health concerns, so it is a best practice that a newly placed foster child of any age also receives a **behavioral health (BH) screening during their first appointment.** This screening may take place at primary care if this provider also provides BH services.

- The child's RAE can help you find this type of provider.

At any point during a child's placement, it may be determined that a foster child may benefit from Behavioral health treatment. When this occurs, the RAE can help the child access those services.

Behavioral Health Services

Behavioral health (BH) services for Health First Colorado members are administered and paid for by the RAE the child is enrolled with.

- Each RAE is responsible for creating a statewide Behavioral health provider network, but the network is unique to each RAE.
- Each RAE is also responsible for the payment of BH services for anyone assigned to the RAE. **For this reason, to ensure payment of BH services, a referring DHS worker should connect a child to a contracted BH provider in the child's RAE network.**
 - DHS workers should contact the RAE case manager upon placement for assistance with paid services, screenings, medications, past care and to assure children are using contracted providers for behavioral health services.
 - RAE case managers can help determine funding and medical necessity.
- Generally, foster care children can receive services at any community mental health center, as the centers are contracted with most RAEs.
- Please note that all Health First Colorado members have access to six short-term, limited behavioral health services in primary care settings. These short-term, limited services are provided by select PCMPs and are not reimbursed by the RAE. For this reason, any applicable provider can be accessed for these sessions, and a member's assigned RAE does not need to be considered.

Call the RAE or visit their website to learn more about their BH provider network. (See separate tip sheet with contact info for all RAEs.)

Dental Care

Newly placed foster children need a **dental exam within eight weeks of placement.**

- The state partners with DentaQuest to deliver dental care to Health First Colorado members. DentaQuest provides a network of dentists across Colorado.
 - To find a dentist, go to **DentaQuest.com/Colorado** or call **1-855-225-1729**.
 - The RAE can also help find a dentist who meets the foster child's needs.
- On an ongoing basis, foster children should have a **dental exam every six months** (starting at the time of eruption of the first tooth).

Initial Appointment Requirements

Well-child Visit (including vision screenings)	Within 14 days of placement
Dental Exam	Within 8 weeks of placement
Behavioral Health Screening*	Within 30 days of placement

*Behavioral Health Screening is a RAE performance metric.

Residential Child Care Facility Services

Many families involved with the DHS retain custody of a child covered by Health First Colorado benefits. In this situation, DHS-involved children and their family members are eligible for the full array of covered services, as long as there is a covered procedure code, a covered behavioral health (BH) diagnosis, and demonstrated medical necessity. Covered services include residential child care facility (RCCF) services.

Child in Custody of DHS

For a **child in the custody of DHS**, DHS is responsible for funding services in a Residential Child Care Facility (RCCF) if the stay is not medically necessary and is for placement reasons only. The assigned RAE is not responsible for paying for these services. In cases where DHS pays for RCCF, the RAE is still responsible for care coordination, which may involve helping to coordinate the placement and services after discharge.

If the RAE denies requested RCCF services due to not meeting medical necessity or not being a covered diagnosis, the county will be informed about the reasons for the denial.

- Health First Colorado can fund medically necessary residential child care facilities fee for service for members with a non-covered diagnosis when the accepting facility is in state. The fee for service benefit only covers treatment costs. Room and Board and any costs for education will need to be funded separately. DHS may assess the family to pay for room and board expenses. A child's home school district may contribute to the child's educational costs. The RAE case managers can help with other options for funding if needed.
- Medically necessary residential treatment facilities for a non-covered diagnosis that are out of state may be covered fee for service if there are no in-state options for appropriate care. Those costs are covered by the EPSDT program and educational costs will need to be funded separately. The RAE case managers will assist the receiving facility to gather the appropriate documents and send in a request to epsdt@state.co.us
- RCCF facilities must be enrolled in Health First Colorado and contracted with each RAE.

Child in Custody of Parent/Guardian

When **the parent or guardian retains custody**, the RAE is responsible for funding RCCF treatment in cases where the child has a covered diagnosis and the level of care is determined to be medically necessary.

- Request a comprehensive level of care assessment through the RAE. RCCF placement may not be the preferred level of care, and the RAE can help identify treatment alternatives that can keep the child in the community.
- Note that a court order for treatment does not constitute medical necessity for that service. The RAE will reimburse court-ordered treatment in an RCCF that is determined to be medically necessary. If not medically necessary, the RAE is not responsible for funding.

Denial of RCCF Services for Children Not in DHS Custody

If the RAE denies a request for RCCF services due to not meeting the medical necessity criteria, the member/family will be informed about the reasons for denial, alternative recommendations, and how to appeal the decision.

- If denied because it does not meet medical necessity criteria, accessing the Fee for Service or Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) funding for the services is not permitted.
- If denied because the member's need is due to a non-covered condition (e.g., autism spectrum disorder) the RAE will help the accepting provider pursue alternative funding through the Colorado Fee for Service or EPSDT programs.
- Appeals should only be pursued if the family wants to request a second opinion from the Children and Youth Mental Health Treatment Act (CYMHTA).
- The fee-for-service can fund residential child care facilities for members with a non-covered diagnosis when the accepting facility is in state. The fee-for-service benefit only covers treatment costs. Room and Board and any costs for education will need to be funded separately, DHS may assess the family to pay for room and board expenses. A child's home school district may contribute to the child's educational costs. The RAE case managers can help with other options for funding if needed.
- Medically necessary residential treatment facilities that are out of state may be covered if there are no in-state options for care. Those costs are covered by the EPSDT program and educational costs will need to be funded separately. The RAE case managers will assist the receiving facility to gather the appropriate documents and send in a request to epsdt@state.co.us

Funding through Colorado EPSDT Program

The [Colorado Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) program](#) provides additional funding for medically necessary services not available to other Health First Colorado members under the state plan.

- Services covered under EPSDT still need to meet medical necessity requirements, and treatment may not be deemed experimental.
- Services may include preventive care, dental, mental health, development, and specialty services.

Former Foster Care Youth

Foster children who remain in care after their 18th birthday are eligible for services under **former foster care youth Health First Colorado**. Medical assistance extends to age 26 for former foster care youth who were in Colorado foster care at ages 18, 19, 20, or 21 and enrolled in Health First Colorado.

- Qualifying youth do not have copays for services, except for pharmacy.
- Qualifying youth do not have to do anything additional to apply for this continued benefit.

Youth are eligible as a former foster care youth if under any of the following types of care in Colorado:

- Certified kinship care and non-certified kinship care (when the county has custody)
- Foster and group home/center care
- Children’s Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP)
- Residential Child Care Facility (RCCF) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) programs
- Independent living programs
- Youth committed to the Division of Youth Corrections living in one of the above, non-secure locations

Youth who left foster care before their 18th birthday are not eligible under former foster care youth Health First Colorado, but may still be eligible for regular Health First Colorado benefits.

Former Foster Care Youth Health First Colorado Benefits	
All the regular Health First Colorado benefits, such as:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor visits • Behavioral health treatment • Rehabilitative services • Laboratory services • Outpatient care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription drugs • Emergency care • Dental care • Maternity care • Newborn care
Preventive and wellness services, including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure screening • Breast cancer screening • Cholesterol screening • Depression screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy diet counseling • Sexually transmitted disease prevention counseling • Tobacco use screening and counseling • And more
<p>For more information, refer to the Member Frequently Asked Questions page, <i>Former Foster Care Youth FAQs</i>, on the HCPF website: Colorado.gov/hcpf.</p>	

Important Notes

- It is important to educate emancipating youth on this extended benefit.
- Additionally, please help the youth understand that he/she will receive information based on the current address in Peak.
 - If the address is not updated after the youth’s last placement, the youth will not continue to receive Health First Colorado information after leaving this placement, unless the youth is educated on how to update his/her information in Peak.

Help Colorado’s foster care youth build a firm foundation for future positive health outcomes by providing education related to this extended Health First Colorado benefit package and RAE contact information.