

South Country Health Alliance

**Transition from Blue Plus to MMSI
for
Third Party Administrator Services**

Skilled Nursing Facility Provider Bulletin

Q1: Who will South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) use as their Third Party Administrator (TPA) for 2009?

A: Starting with dates-of-service of 1/1/09, SCHA will be using MMSI as their TPA for all SCHA programs.

Q2: How will nursing home claims for custodial room and board services be paid where the admission began in 2008 but will carry over into 2009?

A: Blue Plus will be responsible for all custodial room and board services with dates-of-service (DOS) through 12/31/08.

MMSI will be responsible for all custodial room and board with DOS 1/1/09 or later. There are no changes in benefit periods/NF liability as this is an administrative/billing change.

Q3: How will nursing home claims for skilled care services be paid where the skilled care began in 2008 and overlaps into 2009?

A: Blue Plus will be responsible for payment of skilled care services with DOS through 12/31/08.

MMSI will be responsible for payment of skilled care services for DOS 1/1/09 or later. There are no changes in benefit periods as this is an administrative/billing change.

Q4: Will nursing homes continue to provide the Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage (NOMNC)?

A: Yes. Nursing homes should continue to provide the NOMNC to residents on the CMS approved form.

Q5: Who should the nursing home bill for ancillary services when the admission overlaps from 2008 to 2009?

A: All ancillary services provided in 2008 will be processed by Blue Plus.

A: All ancillary services provided in 2009 will be processed by MMSI.

Q6: How long will nursing homes have to submit claims to Blue Plus for 2008 dates-of-service?

A: SCHA and Blue Plus have a one-year agreement (1/1/09 – 12/31/09) for Blue Plus to process 2008 run out claims. This time period is consistent with the timely claims filing guidelines and Blue Plus provider agreements.

Q7: What is the address for submitting 2009 claims to MMSI?

**A: Submit paper claims to:
MMSI
PO Box 4014
Rochester, MN 55903**

Q8: What is the electronic submission payer ID number for MMSI?

A: The MMSI payer ID number is 41154.

MMSI has relationships with the following clearinghouses: Emdeon, Claims Lynx, Medifax, and Care Medic; but also receives EDI claims data from other clearinghouses who then forward the EDI claim files on to one of MMSI's direct clearinghouses.

Q9: What phone number do I call for questions about claims?

A: Claims questions should be directed to the MMSI Provider Services Call Center at 1-800-995-4543.

Q10: What form(s) do nursing homes need to submit in 2009 when providing service to SCHA members?

A: Nursing homes should use the enclosed “SCHA Nursing Home Communication Form” in 2009 for all SCHA programs. The form should be completed within 24 hours of admission, discharge, and change in status or case mix, and faxed to MMSI at 1-888-889-7822.

Q11: Can nursing homes request Intensive Service Days (ISD) whereby the nursing homes are paid an extra fee to handle cases where a SCHA Senior Care Complete or Ability Care member might otherwise need to be hospitalized?

A: Yes. Nursing homes will continue to be able to request prior authorization, and for approved services receive additional reimbursement, for Intensive Service Days for a resident who is in skilled or custodial care by calling MMSI Health Services at 1-800-645-6296.

Q12: Can ISD services be requested for SCHA members regardless of whether SCHA or the Department of Human Services (DHS) is financially responsible for custodial care?

A: Yes. If DHS is responsible for the custodial room and board, the nursing home should prior authorize the ISD and then bill SCHA for the ISD services.

If SCHA is responsible for the custodial room and board, the nursing home should prior authorize the ISD service and then bill SCHA for both the ISD and custodial room and board.

Q13: How should approved ISD services be billed to SCHA?

A: Nursing homes should bill SCHA for ISD using revenue code 0230. Approved ISDs will be reimbursed by SCHA at \$225 per day, including medications, in addition to the current RUG rate for the resident.

Q14: How will nursing homes be reimbursed for the services they provide?

A: SCHA will reimburse nursing homes based on the appropriate Medicaid and Medicare RUG reimbursement schedules.