

## **Table of Contents**

**State/Territory Name: South Carolina**

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 20-0002**

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS 179 Form/Summary Form (with 179-like data)
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services  
233 North Michigan Ave., Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois 60601



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**Financial Management Group**

April 9, 2021

Mr. Joshua D. Baker, Director  
South Carolina Department of Health & Human Services  
P.O. Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

Attention: Sheila Chavis

RE: South Carolina State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0002

Dear Mr. Baker:

We have reviewed the proposed South Carolina State Plan Amendment, 20-0002, which was received by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 17, 2020. This plan amendment was submitted as the annual update to the State's supplemental teaching physician payment program using the Average Commercial Rate.

Based upon the information provided by the State, we have approved the amendment with an effective date of April 1, 2020. We are enclosing the approved CMS-179 (HCFA-179) and a copy of the new state plan pages.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Moe Wolf at 410-786-9291 or [Moshe.Wolf@CMS.HHS.gov](mailto:Moshe.Wolf@CMS.HHS.gov)

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Todd McMillion.

Todd McMillion  
Director  
Division of Reimbursement Review

Enclosures

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF  
STATE PLAN MATERIAL**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:  
20-0002

2. STATE  
South Carolina

**FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION**

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE  
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)

TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR  
HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE  
April 1, 2020

5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (Check One):

NEW STATE PLAN                       AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN                       AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (Separate Transmittal for each amendment)

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:  
42 CFR Part 447 Subpart B

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT:  
a. FFY 2020 \$1.84 million (\$5.2 million x .7070 x 50%)  
b. FFY 2021 \$3.67 million (\$5.2 million x .7063)

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 4.19-B, pages 2b & 2b.1

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION  
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable):

Attachment 4.19-B pages, 2b & 2b.1

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: This Supplemental Teaching Physician (STP) Payment program state plan amendment updates the base year used to determine payments under the Average Commercial Rate (ACR) method.

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One):

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT  
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED  
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:  
Mr. Baker was designated by the Governor  
to review and approve all State Plans

12. [Redacted]  
13. [Redacted]  
Joshua D. Baker

16. RETURN TO:  
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Post Office Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

14. TITLE:  
Director

15. DATE SUBMITTED:  
June 12, 2020

**FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY**

17. DATE RECEIVED:  
June 17, 2020

18. DATE APPROVED:  
April 9, 2021

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:  
April 1, 2020

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL:  
[Redacted]

21. TYPED NAME:  
Todd McMillion

22. TITLE:  
Director, Division of Reimbursement Review

23. REMARKS:

Cardiothoracic Surgery, Child Abuse Pediatrics, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology/Nutrition, Genetics, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurological Surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Psychiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Surgery, Urology and such other pediatric sub-specialty areas as may be determined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

South Carolina Medicaid Supplemental Teaching Physician (STP) Payment Program

South Carolina supplemental teaching physician providers are defined as those providers with teaching physicians who are employed by or under contract with South Carolina Medical Universities and/or their component units. The teaching physician would involve residents and/or medical students in the care of his or her patients or directly supervise residents in the care of patients. The teaching physician must be present within the facility or in the office suite and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the service. It does not mean that the teaching physician must be present in the room when the service is performed.

Effective for services provided on and after October 1, 2016, the Medicaid Agency will reimburse teaching physician providers under the Average Commercial Rate (ACR) method. The Medicaid Agency employed the following methodology to determine the payments under the ACR method effective April 1, 2020:

- The base year claims data used for payment purposes is based upon incurred dates of service from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
- Next, the STP providers identified and provided a list of their qualifying teaching physicians for the base period.
- Next, each STP provider identified all enrolled Medicaid physicians who are employed by or under contract with the qualifying teaching hospital and/or Medical University and pulled all claims billed by these physicians to their commercial carriers during the base period. The top five commercial carriers would be determined based upon the volume of claims (with charges and payment information provided) incurred by the Medicaid enrolled physicians.
- Next, once the top five commercial carriers were determined by each individual STP provider, the fee schedule rates applicable to the top five commercial carriers were provided via procedure code. To account for changes in commercial fee schedule rates during the base period, providers were allowed to simply weight the rates by the number of months based upon the effective date of the rate change or pull charge and payment data applicable to each claim (including both the commercial carrier payment plus the patient coinsurance, copay, and deductible payments) and determine a weighted average commercial rate over the entire base period.

SC 20-0002  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/20  
RO APPROVAL: 4/9/21  
SUPERSEDES: SC 19-0004

- Next, Medicaid Agency staff pulled Medicaid claims data incurred during the base period for each teaching physician for each STP provider from its Decision Support System (which is fed from the state's MMIS system). The data was then summarized by each procedure code for each STP provider.
- Next, Medicaid Agency staff determined the average commercial rate for each STP provider by simply taking the average of the commercial rates listed for each procedure code provided.
- Next, Medicaid Agency staff then repriced the individual Medicaid FFS claims from the base period by multiplying the number of units incurred by each procedure code against the individual STP provider's average commercial rate for that procedure code. Clinical lab procedure codes will be priced using the Medicare Clinical Lab Fee Schedule in effect for South Carolina during the base year period from which the claims are pulled.
- To account for claims with procedure codes with modifiers identified, Medicaid Agency staff repriced these claims based upon the "base procedure code" average commercial rate (i.e. full procedure code rate) multiplied by the modifier logic percentage allowed for the modifier listed. This same logic was also applied to anesthesia claims with modifiers. For claims with procedure codes with unidentifiable modifiers, these claims were priced using the base procedure code average commercial rate. All Medicaid FFS claims with the modifier OTC (technical component) were excluded from the ACR pricing analysis.
- Vaccine administration procedure codes and payments are excluded in the ACR analysis.
- An aggregate IBNR factor is then applied against the annual number of base period Medicaid FFS claims to be repriced by each procedure code to capture all incurred claims applicable to the base period.
- Once all procedure codes were repriced using the average commercial rate, the amounts were summed and compared against the total Medicaid FFS claim payments received by each STP provider. Medicaid FFS claim payments consisted of the payment made by SCDHHS (Medicaid), any TPL that may have been paid on behalf of the patient, and any patient copay amount. This net amount represents the annual supplemental teaching physician payment amount using the ACR payment methodology.
- The annual supplemental teaching physician payment amount described above will be paid to the following supplemental teaching physician providers on a quarterly basis via gross adjustments processed through MMIS: AnMed Medical Center, McLeod Regional Medical Center, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Medicine, PRISMA Health Greenville Memorial Hospital, PRISMA Health Richland Hospital, Self Memorial Hospital, and Spartanburg Regional Medical Center.