

Partnership for Petersburg

DMAS has partnered with Conexus who conducts mobile vision screenings, makes referrals if needed and dispenses glasses to schools throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since September 2024, Conexus has screened 1,304 students in Petersburg to date and 591 of those students have been referred. Conexus plans to complete screenings and dispense glasses for the Petersburg area by March 2025.

November 2024 was the one-year anniversary of the pilot with Dr. Bazile, Bon Secours Southside, DMAS and the MCOs in offering extended OB/GYN clinic hours. A total of 4 clinics have been completed. The last clinic was held on December 7, 2024. The number of members attending appointments has increased with each visit. As a result of Dr. Bazile's dedication to the members of Petersburg, DMAS began spreading the word and Inova Health System has followed suit and now offers extended hours.

Child Health Updates

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP services (CMS) recently conducted an EPSDT scan, which was the result of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This Act gave directives for CMS to review State EPSDT implementation by 2024 for both managed care and fee for service. The goal is to provide states support to address gaps and issue guidance on best practices to ensure children/adolescents have access to quality health care services under the EPSDT benefit.

As a result of the scan, DMAS is currently reviewing Virginia State EPSDT materials to enhance outreach to children/adolescents and families, so they receive the proper access to services under the EPSDT benefit. Updates to the DMAS website, EPSDT Manual Supplement, and trainings for providers will be available after DMAS reviews and approvals.

Upcoming Presentations

12/12/24 - CHIPAC Committee Meeting – Presentation on EPSDT Basics

EPSDT Mailbox:

Please reach out to our EPSDT mailbox at EPSDT@dmass.virginia.gov for inquiries around the benefit.

Early Intervention Mailbox:

Also, for Early Intervention inquiries, please contact M4EarlyIntervention@dmass.virginia.gov.

Provider Manuals:

<https://vamedicaid.dmass.virginia.gov/>

Foster Care Program Updates

DMAS is currently in the process of re-procuring its MCO contracts for Cardinal Care. The procurement will include a provision for one MCO to administer a single specialty plan for the child welfare member populations. Through the Foster Care Specialty Plan, DMAS will select one MCO that will operate statewide and work collaboratively with DMAS, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Office of Children's Services. DMAS plans to enroll all children and youth in foster care in the Foster Care Specialty Plan. It is anticipated that youth in adoption assistance and former foster care members will be auto-assigned to the Foster Care Specialty Plan but may elect to enroll in another health plan. Over the last several months, DMAS has been working with representatives from the Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE) to develop guidance documents for local DSS Eligibility staff to ensure accurate enrollment for youth into the Foster Care Specialty Plan upon implementation. More information will be forthcoming.

Baby Steps Virginia – Maternal Health



DMAS VICC Updates – December 2024



Virginia Medicaid continues to recognize the importance of addressing infant and maternal health in a holistic way. While focusing on the needs of pregnant and postpartum women, Baby Steps VA emphasizes “wellness, one step at a time. Our “rainbow” arc aims to ensure pregnant women and new parents feel supported by their communities from preconception, pregnancy, and parenting and beyond.

If you are interested in being added to the listserv to receive newsletters, DMAS maternal health updates, and meeting invites please email BabySteps@dmass.virginia.gov

Maternal Health Updates

- Development of Maternal Health Comparison Chart
 - <https://virginiamanagedcare.com/en/member-materials>
- Six successful Baby Steps VA meetings to close out 2024
- Updates with the FFS BabyCare program and service authorizations for Homemaker services

Community Doula Program

Virginia Medicaid’s Community Doula Program remains committed to increasing the accessibility of doula services for pregnant individuals in VA. To date, 193 doulas have received Virginia state certification through VDH. Of those, 158 are enrolled as Medicaid providers and eligible for reimbursement.

The Germanna Community College Doula Certification Program completed its first cohort in October. Graduates of the program will participate in Germanna’s Health Sciences Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, December 12th at 2:00pm. The next two cohorts of the program are expected in 2025. The program which launched August 2024, was developed by Germanna Community College, in partnership with Rappahannock Health District, Mary Washington Hospital, and the State departments of Health (VDH), and **Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)**. The course utilizes local doula trainers, Germanna faculty/staff and the local hospital system. Student scholarships were provided by Medicaid MCOs and the Rappahannock Health District.

The Virginia Doula Taskforce met on November 30, 2024, and will meet on December 09, 2024. Topics included, doula recertification, taskforce membership/nominations and revisions to the bylaws.

Dental Coverage

Virginia’s Medicaid dental program continues to be a national leader with respect to benefits offered to our members. Network adequacy remains a top concern within the program. The dental program has surpassed the 2,000-provider mark and currently has 2,255 credentialed providers in the program.

As a part of the new contract with DentaQuest, the dental program has assigned a dental home to each beneficiary. Assigning a dental home for our Medicaid beneficiaries will help foster an ongoing relationship between the dentist and the member, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care.

DentaQuest has implemented the Case Management program which provides proactive engagement with at-risk members. This Case Management program identifies members that need additional assistance, determines their risk level and matches the member to a provider who can best assist their needs. Since inception, there have been over 1,000 at-risk members identified. Direct assistance has been provided to 75% of the members which is well above the 67% national average.