

## PROVIDER BULLETIN

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### **Extended Coverage for Independent Foster Care Adolescents**

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#### **Extended Healthcare Coverage for Independent Foster Care Adolescents.**

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Senate Bill 127 was passed by the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and became law on August 28, 2013. This bill modified the language for healthcare coverage for certain participants in Foster Care. Senate Bill 127 extends foster care coverage without regard to income to include persons who are in foster care at age eighteen (18), or at any time during the thirty-day period preceding their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday, through age twenty-five (25). The participant must be under the age of twenty-six (26), not eligible for coverage under another mandatory coverage group, and must have been covered by MO HealthNet while they were still in Foster Care.

These participants will have a Medical Eligibility Code (ME Code) of 38 and will have the same healthcare benefits and limitations as current ME Code 38 eligible participants.

Participants with ME Code 38 will be enrolled in a Managed Care health plan if they reside in an area of the State where Managed Care is operational. ME Code 38 participants are considered in state care and custody (Group 4). All behavioral health services will be paid through the MO HealthNet Fee-For-Service Program, even if the participant is enrolled in a Managed Care health plan.

Please refer to the appropriate MO HealthNet program manual for additional information regarding benefits and limitations for participants with ME Code 38 coverage. Program Manuals may be accessed via the [MHD website](#).

**Provider Bulletins** are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

**MO HealthNet News:** Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

**MO HealthNet Managed Care:** The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

**Provider Communications Hotline**  
**573-751-2896**