

News Release

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S.C. BlueChoice Medicaid, AnMed Health to help children with asthma

Columbia, S.C. – BlueChoice® HealthPlan of South Carolina’s Medicaid program is teaming up with Asthmania Academy at AnMed Health to help children ages 2 through 17 in Anderson County and surrounding areas who have asthma.

The Asthmania Academy works with patients, families and their primary care physicians to add an education component to the primary care physician’s care plan. Staff members assess a patient’s asthma control. Then they provide education customized for the patient and family and based on national guidelines. BlueChoice® HealthPlan Medicaid will cover the educational services for members whose doctors refer them to the program.

“The services Asthmania Academy provides will help our young members with asthma enjoy a better quality of life,” said Scott Graves, vice president of BlueChoice Medicaid. “While we’ve had traditional coverage for medical treatment of asthma, this program goes a step further with coverage for education and development of action plans to prevent major asthma episodes. Our coverage now extends to this pre-emptive service.”

“Asthma is different for every person; it’s not a one-size-fits-all disease,” said Mike Shoemaker, site coordinator for Asthmania Academy. “BlueChoice Medicaid is stepping out of the box to cover asthma educational services that traditionally are unfunded by insurance. They recognize the importance of knowledge and preparation by these families that will help control their loved one’s disease so there are fewer emergencies.”

The program www.anmedhealth.org/asthmaniaacademy, located at AnMed Health in Anderson, S.C., is only the second in the nation and the first in the southeastern U.S. to receive Asthma Self-Management Education certification from the American Association for Respiratory Care.

BlueChoice Medicaid is a managed care plan in which South Carolina Medicaid members select a primary care doctor who provides care and/or arranges for care with specialists. Members enjoy their normal Healthy Connections coverage and receive discounts on fitness center memberships, allergy products and vitamins, health programs such as weight management, and more. Members with a chronic disease may receive help managing their condition. To inquire about becoming a BlueChoice Medicaid member, call 800-574-8864.

About BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina

Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., BlueChoice HealthPlan of South

Carolina (www.BlueChoiceSC.com) is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association is a national federation of 38 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies that collectively provide healthcare coverage for 100 million members, or 1-in-3 Americans. For more information on the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and its member companies, visit www.bcbs.com.

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