

# Monthly Provider Check-In

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## Meridian grant mobilizes care for Central Illinois moms



All expectant moms should be able to easily access care. But in one-third of Illinois counties, women must travel nearly 50 miles or more to the nearest birthing hospital.

With a \$1.5 million grant from Meridian and the Centene Foundation, OSF Healthcare is expanding its program to help moms in rural areas. The grant supports [a new mobile maternity care unit](#) to bring comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care to women who need it most in Peoria and surrounding areas.

## It's back-to-school time. Set children up for success—and a healthy future.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, a timely reminder of the importance of preventive care as children return to classrooms. Here are some ways providers can support members:



- **Remind families about the Healthy Rewards** they can earn from Meridian by completing their annual checkups and obtaining recommended immunizations.
- **Refresh yourself on our 2025 Pay for Performance program**, including incentives for meeting HEDIS® targets related to child and adolescent immunizations and well-care visits. (**Log into the secure provider portal** to monitor your year-to-date performance.)
- **Ensure your practice information is current.** Submitting necessary updates through our **Provider Updates page** helps members locate doctors in our provider directories.

## You can go back to school, too. Attend our August Quality webinar.

Make plans to join us for our next Quality education webinar, covering the following topics:

- Critical incidents
- Child and adolescent immunizations
- Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD) HEDIS measure
- Illinois ADVANCE – Academic Detailing program

**Register: August 21 from 2–3 p.m.** ↗

## New YouthCare Provider Manual: Procedures for a specialized health plan



While several YouthCare procedures and operations align with the Meridian Medicaid Plan, there are some key differences. The provider manual is your best, most comprehensive resource for understanding YouthCare policies, with our August 2025 edition reflecting updates such as:

- New Availity functionality
- Refreshed information about value-added services for YouthCare members
- Details about submitting consent requests through the DCFS Office of the Guardian online portal

**Updated YouthCare provider manual**

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## Our 'Why': 2025 Community Impact Reports

Meridian's uniquely local approach and strong community partnerships connect members with quality, whole-health care that allows them to thrive physically and mentally. In our 2025 Community Impact Reports, we share the positive differences we make in members' lives in partnership with you, our network of compassionate providers.

**[Meridian 2025 Community Impact Report ↗](#)**

**[YouthCare 2025 Community Impact Report ↗](#)**

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## Watch: Care management supports Steven's complex medical needs

Born nearly three months early, Steven spent the first 15 months of his life in a neonatal intensive care unit. Medical complexities stemming from his premature birth have led to more than 40 hospitalizations into adulthood. Hear from Debbie, Steven's mother, as she describes the support her family has received from their Meridian care manager—support that has helped keep Steven dancing, smiling, and grateful.

## Prepare for encounter data validation



The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) regularly conducts a review of the accuracy and completeness of member encounter data submitted by Medicaid health plans. **The 2025 review is scheduled to begin this fall, and your partnership is critical.** If you receive a request from Meridian or YouthCare to submit member medical records, please respond by the requested deadline to help us meet state requirements.

## Fee schedule updates, rate changes, & billing updates

Claim alerts and known issues are posted on our [website](#), along with updates from Meridian about proactively reprocessing claims. Claims should not be resubmitted unless otherwise indicated. For billing questions, contact your assigned Provider Engagement representative. If your practice doesn't have an assigned representative, please complete our [intake form](#).

- See our [guidance on duplicate logic for institutional claims](#), and find examples to guide claims submissions and avoid duplicate denials.
- Hospital providers should review our reminder about [billing requirements for observation services](#) and necessary CPT®/HCPCS codes.
- [Claims for Air and Medicaire transportation](#) must meet HFS requirements as outlined in our provider notice.
- [Local health departments or school-based linked health centers](#) are reminded to include the appropriate billing taxonomy on claims for accurate processing.
- Find guidance on distinct modifiers with [billing requirements for telehealth services](#).

## In case you missed it

- Providers who screen members for social determinants of health (using approved instruments) and include eligible Z-codes on claims can [earn](#)

incentives through a new program, **effective through December 31**.

- Newer providers—and established providers seeking a refresher—should **check out our Upcoming Webinars** for educational opportunities offered by our Provider Engagement team.

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Meridian and our family of plans connect communities across the state to the whole-health care they need, right where they are.



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## Contact us

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