

Be Smart. Be Ready.

Free Reproductive Health Services in North Carolina

Facts about the Medicaid Family Planning “BE SMART” Program

What is the Medicaid Family Planning “BE SMART” program?

The Medicaid Family Planning Program, or “BE SMART” program, is designed to reduce unintended (unplanned) pregnancies and improve the well-being of children and families in North Carolina. Family planning/reproductive health and contraceptive services are provided to eligible men and women, whose income is at or below 195% of the federal poverty level, with no age restrictions.

Who can enroll with Medicaid to provide Family Planning Services under the “BE SMART” program?

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Birthing centers
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Laboratories
- Local health departments
- Nurse practitioners
- Nurse midwives
- Outpatient hospitals
- Physicians
- Rural health clinics

What services are covered under the “BE SMART” program?

The following services are covered through the “Be Smart” when provided as part of a family planning visit:

- Annual and periodic office visits (including counseling, patient education, and treatment)
- Specific laboratory procedures (i.e., pap tests, pregnancy tests)
- FDA-approved and Medicaid-covered birth control methods, procedures, pharmaceutical supplies, and devices
- Screening for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- Screening and treatment for specific Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Voluntary sterilization (in accordance with federal sterilization guidelines)

Note: There are no co-payments for beneficiaries for services received through the “BE SMART” program.

When services are not covered under the “BE SMART” program and the provider does not offer affordable or free care, patients should contact their local department of social services (DSS) for a list of primary care “safety net” providers, or contact a local county health department clinic, community health center or a rural health center.

Who can sign up for the “BE SMART” program?

Eligible individuals whose income is at or below 195% of the federal poverty level and who are:

- U.S. citizens, documented immigrants or qualified aliens;
- Residents of North Carolina;
- Not incarcerated;
- Not pregnant; and
- Not permanently sterilized.

How can I apply for the “BE SMART” program?

Individuals interested in applying may get an application from their local DSS office, health department or on-line at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/applications.htm>. The completed application must be returned to a local county DSS office.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the “BE SMART” program?

For more information about this special Medicaid program, please visit North Carolina’s Medicaid website at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/familyplanning.htm>.

Services for the “BE SMART” program are covered under the State Eligibility Option for Family Planning Services (State Plan Amendment), with no lapse in services previously covered under the Family Planning Waiver.