



March of Dimes Community Highlights Website Language Select Health of South Carolina

Select Health of South Carolina is the state's largest and oldest Medicaid Managed Care organization. We coordinate access to quality healthcare for more than 223,000 First Choice health plan members, many of whom are expectant moms. Our mission is to help people get care, stay well and build healthy communities.

One of the many ways we achieve our mission is through partnerships. In South Carolina, The March of Dimes is working to improve the infant mortality rate by collaborating with public and private organizations like the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) and Select Health.

Through our First Choice health plan, we have the joy and privilege of coordinating the care of many pregnant women and their newborn babies. We have a program designed especially for these members called Healthy Moms and Babies. Healthy Moms and Babies is a fully-integrated program that ideally begins at conception and continues through a child's first birthday. Our team of dedicated nurses, physicians and associates work closely with pregnant members to help them get to 40 weeks gestation by encouraging healthy eating, teaching the warning signs and symptoms of pre-term labor and even coordinating the use and delivery of 17 Alpha-Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate (17-P), an injection proven to reduce the risk of preterm birth.

For one First Choice member who had a history of premature labor, the Healthy Moms and Babies coordination of 17p led to the successful delivery of her first child at 38 weeks. This member moved in the middle of her 17p treatments and the Healthy Moms and Babies nurse she had been working with coordinated the delivery of 17p to the member's new address. The member was able to take the medication to her new doctor and continue her treatments. Shortly after delivering her baby, the member called her Healthy Moms and Babies nurse and shared that she had delivered a healthy baby boy, weighing 6 pounds and 12 ounces.

Stories like these are common at Select Health because the work we do complements that of our members' physicians. Once a baby is born, the Healthy Moms and Babies staff send reminders about vaccinations and well-child appointments. We have the ability to reinforce and encourage messages received from our members' doctors. This coordination of care helps First Choice members remember important tips and take charge of their health.

Select Health is also a strong supporter of the South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative introduced by SCDHHS and the SCHA earlier this fall. Hospitals that deliver babies in South Carolina have signed a pledge to end the practice of early elective deliveries for pregnant Medicaid enrollees. Early elective deliveries, including cesarean sections prior to 39 weeks, account for about 13 percent of all South Carolina births and can lead to low birth weight and corresponding medical complications. Eliminating the practice will save taxpayers more than \$1 million a year in delivery costs and an additional \$7 million will be saved through a reduction in hospitalizations for babies. Together we've been able to increase

awareness of the risks associated with premature birth while also empowering pregnant women through education and outreach to make positive health choices that lead to healthy, full-term babies.

These powerful and collaborative partnerships demonstrate the commitment South Carolina has made to reducing and preventing premature births. [Select Health](#) is uniquely positioned to assist in these efforts and it is a role we take very seriously.

Ending premature births is an important task that requires the work and dedication of all of us because it is a problem that affects all of us. Together we are making a difference and together we will continue to make a difference.