

Important Notice: Water Safety as a Priority

This communication applies to the Medicaid programs for Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. (Simply) and Clear Health Alliance (CHA) as well as the Florida Healthy Kids (FHK) program for Simply.

With the onset of COVID-19, families are spending more time home. We are encouraging our provider partners to continue to emphasize and highlight the importance of water safety. Aside from birth defects, drownings are the leading cause of death for young children ages 1 to 4 years. Providers serve as educators and advocates and play an important role in drowning prevention.

Certain populations have an increased risk of drowning due to behavior, skill, environment or underlying medical condition(s). Most infant drownings occur in buckets and bathtubs. Children ages 1 to 4 are more likely to drown in home swimming pools, while children 5 years and older are most likely to drown in natural bodies of water.

Strategies

We are asking providers to offer tailored anticipatory guidance to families when discussing water safety and to encourage patients to employ layers of protection when participating in water activities.

- Barriers — Encourage parents/guardians to:
 - Install pool gates with locks and alarms.
 - Inspect pool gates and surrounding areas of any setting they visit with their children, including hot tubs.
 - Remove and/or empty containers of standing water in and around the home.
- Educate — Encourage water competency for parents and children:
 - Children should learn to swim and have basic water competency skills such as the ability to:
 - Enter the water.
 - Surface.
 - Turn around.
 - Propel oneself for at least 25 yards.
 - Exit the water.
- Watch — Emphasize the importance of uninterrupted, undistracted supervision of children in and around water:
 - Designate an adult to watch over children while in and around water.
 - Never leave a child unattended around water.
 - Swim when there are lifeguards or watchers on duty.
 - Wear a lifejacket for new/weak swimmers, and always when boating.
- Prepare — Encourage parents/guardians to learn CPR and know what to do in case of an emergency.

<https://provider.simplyhealthcareplans.com/florida-provider>

<https://provider.clearhealthalliance.com/florida-provider>

Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. is a Managed Care Plan with a Florida Medicaid contract. Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. dba Clear Health Alliance is a Managed Care Plan with a Florida Medicaid contract.

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To help in the effort to prevent drownings in our population, Simply and CHA offer free swimming lessons for children as a part of their expanded benefits. For information on how to request swimming lessons, members can call our Member Services department:

- FHK members: **1-844-406-2396 (TTY 711)**
- Simply members enrolled in Medicaid (ages 3 to 16 years old): **1-844-405-4298 (TTY 711)**
- CHA members (ages 3 to 16 years old) at **1-844-406-2398 (TTY 711)**.

For additional resources, please visit:

- American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/drowning-prevention/Pages/default.aspx>
- American Red Cross:
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety.html>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/safechild/drowning/index.html>