

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health Care Finance

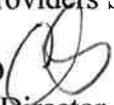


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**Office of the Senior Deputy Director**

**Transmittal No.: 14-21**

TO: District of Columbia Providers Serving Medicaid-Eligible Beneficiaries

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, JD   
Interim Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: **APR 11 2014**

SUBJECT: Policy Regarding Medicaid Coverage to Promote Breast Feeding

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The information in this transmittal applies to all Medicaid providers and managed care organizations serving Medicaid-eligible women and children.

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) seeks to promote breastfeeding as the optimal way to feed infants eligible for the District's Medicaid Program. Extensive research studies have documented many benefits of breastfeeding for both the nursing infant and mother. The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) specifically recommends coordinated interventions throughout pregnancy, birth, and infancy to increase breastfeeding initiation, duration and exclusivity. However, lactation services are not specifically mentioned in the Medicaid statute, Federal Medicaid regulations or the District of Columbia State Plan for Medical Assistance, but were addressed in policy guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of the policy is to clarify what lactation services are covered and how to bill for these services under the District's Medicaid program.

**Lactation Services Covered by DHCF**

This transmittal outlines lactation services covered by DHCF for Medicaid-eligible District residents who are enrolled in Medicaid managed care plans or receive Medicaid through fee-for-service providers.

- a. *Lactation Consultation, Education and Support* are covered under the District's Medicaid program as "pregnancy-related services." Pregnancy-related services are defined as those that are necessary for the health of the pregnant woman and fetus, or that have become necessary as a result of the woman having been pregnant.

States must provide coverage of pregnancy-related services during the woman's pregnancy and for an extended postpartum period, defined as beginning on the last day of pregnancy and extending through the end of the month in which the 60-day period following termination of pregnancy ends.

- b. *Breast Pumps and Lactation Supplies* are covered under the District's Medicaid program for mothers of infants age 0 through 11 months as "durable medical equipment" when considered medically necessary. The types of breast pumps are covered are: hospital grade electric breast pump, individual electric breast pump, and manual breast pump. Lactation supplies include up to two breast pump kits with tubing, valves, flanges and collection bottles, as well as nipple shields and supplemental lactation aides.
- c. *Donated Human Milk* will be covered by DHCF for Medicaid-eligible infants, age 0 through 11 months of age, provided all of the criteria detailed in Policy Number HCPRA-1-2014. For infants that require human milk, the treating physician must submit the Donor Human Milk Request Form every 180 days documenting the infant's medical necessity for breast milk.

#### **Contact DHCF**

If you have any questions about the information contained in this transmittal, or need additional information, please contact Colleen Sonosky, Associate Director, Division of Children's Health Services at 202-442-5913 or by email at [Colleen.Sonosky@dc.gov](mailto:Colleen.Sonosky@dc.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> See CMS, Medicaid Coverage of Lactation Services, [http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/Downloads/Lactation\\_Services\\_IssueBrief\\_01102012.pdf](http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/Downloads/Lactation_Services_IssueBrief_01102012.pdf)