

Medical Care Advisory Committee Program Update

June 29, 2022

Medicaid Program Update

Doula Services

Background: Doula Services and Postpartum Eligibility Extension at DHCF

- The Budget Support Act of 2022 (BSA) requires DHCF to submit a Medicaid State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by September 30, 2022, that establishes doula services under the Medicaid program, effective October 1, 2022.
 - **DHCF has drafted the SPA and will submit it to CMS in the next week; details to follow**
- The BSA also required DHCF to submit a Postpartum Eligibility Extension to make anyone eligible for Medicaid for the full 12 months after the end of their pregnancy
 - Previously, beneficiaries were only eligible for 2 months of postpartum
 - **DHCF applied and received approval for this from the federal government; the extension is effective as of April 1, 2022**
 - Applies to new applicants, to those applying for retroactive coverage, or to beneficiaries whose pregnancy ended in the year before April 1, 2022

Background: Maternal Health Advisory Group and Stakeholder Work on Maternal Health

- *DHCF is required to establish processes for billing and reimbursement of doula services “in consultation with organizations providing doula services and other relevant entities,” including:*
 - Setting a reasonable number of doula visits to be reimbursed during the pregnancy and postpartum period
 - Setting competitive reimbursement rates
 - Developing program support and training for doula service providers on billing
 - Assessing the viability of doula incentive payments for patient postpartum provider visits
- **To assist with outreach and input on Doula Services and the Postpartum Eligibility Extension, DHCF formed the Maternal Health Advisory Group**
 - 22 members; headed by Melisa Byrd, DHCF Medicaid Director
 - Held monthly meetings January-June 2022
 - Held 2 Subgroup meetings and 2 working meetings on more specialized topics
 - Future: Meetings on doula enrollment and billing with related training and outreach
 - **Input has assisted with drafting the State Plan Amendment on doula services**

Draft State Plan Amendment for Medicaid Reimbursement of Doula Services

Reimbursement Design

- The SPA proposes to reimburse prenatal doula visits on a per visit basis and provide a flat rate for labor and delivery
- The amendment also proposes to reimburse postpartum doula services on a per unit basis in fifteen (15) minute units not to exceed twenty-four (24) units or six (6) hours per postpartum doula visit

Doula Visits

- All pregnant individuals covered under the State Plan would have access to a total of 12 doula visits across the prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum periods
 - An initial planning visit will help identify personal preferences for how to allocate the visits across pregnancy, birth, and postpartum

Draft State Plan Amendment for Medicaid Reimbursement of Doula Services

Doula Services

Perinatal and Birthing Period - Doula Services

- Perinatal counseling and education, including infant care, to prevent adverse outcomes
- Labor support, including the development of a birth plan
- Coordination with community-based services to improve beneficiary outcomes
- Other nonclinical activities to support the beneficiary, consistent with District Law

Postpartum Period - Doula Services

- Visits to provide basic infant care
- Accompanying the beneficiary to a clinician visit
- Lactation support
- Emotional and physical support
- Selfcare
- Other nonclinical activities to support the beneficiary, consistent with District Law

Upcoming Work on Maternal Health

Near-Term

- Stakeholder review and comments on the State Plan Amendment on Doula Services
- Meeting on Maternal Mental Health on July 18th
- Subgroup finishes a Postpartum Health Flier with information on postpartum health a year after the end of pregnancy

Before October 1, 2022

- DHCF submits the SPA to CMS
- CMS approves the SPA
- Meeting on Doula Enrollment and Billing on Monday, August 8th
- Doula enrollment begins on or before October 1, 2022

Future:

- Further meetings and training on doula enrollment and billing
- Collaboration with DC Health regarding doula training and requirements
- Doula billing begins on October 1, 2022

Medicaid Program Update

Health Care Workforce Taskforce

Health Care Workforce Task Force

On May 2, 2022: Mayor Bowser and DC Health announced the formation of a new Healthcare Workforce Task Force charged with rebuilding, strengthening, and expanding the District's healthcare workforce. The Task Force includes thought leaders from the healthcare, education, and government sectors and will be co-chaired by Dr. Wayne Fredrick, President of Howard University, and Ms. Anita Jenkins, CEO of Howard University Hospital.

The Task Force's work shall focus on developing recommendations that address the current stresses in the District's healthcare system, while specifically focusing on the following:

- expanding healthcare employer access to potential employees
- increasing the number of District residents employed in healthcare
- upskilling current healthcare workers in non-clinical and clinical roles
- expanding the number of high-quality allied health training programs serving DC residents
- retention of health professional students post-graduation
- designing a health careers pipeline strategy

DHCF Representation on Subcommittees:

Deputy Mayor Wayne Turnage: Enhancing High-Quality Allied Health Training Programs

Melisa Byrd: Strengthening Recruitment and Retention of Existing Qualified Healthcare Workers

The Task Force has met twice on May 26th and June 16th

More Information on Task Force can be found [Healthcare Workforce Task Force Meetings | doh \(dc.gov\)](#)

Medicaid Program Update

see Attachments for *Enrollment Update*

see Attachments for *SPA, Waiver, Rule Update*