

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 22-34

TO: District of Columbia Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director, DHCF

DATE: September 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Doula Benefit, Provider Qualifications and Enrollment, Rates and Reimbursement Standards

Purpose

Effective October 1, 2022, the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) will reimburse for doula services and enroll doulas as providers in health programs (Medicaid, Alliance, and the Immigrant Children’s Program). This Transmittal outlines the scope of services, enrollment information, billing standards, and reimbursement rates for doulas.

Background

Development of the doula benefit, including the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA), involved stakeholder input on doula services collected at meetings of the Maternal Health Advisory Group, a 23-member body with designated representatives from stakeholders such as doulas, non-doula providers, managed care organizations, and District agencies. The Maternal Health Advisory Group and its subgroups met eight (8) times between January and August 2022. For more information on the Maternal Health Advisory Group, please see <https://dhcf.dc.gov/maternalhealthprojects>.

To promote parity across DHCF administered health programs, doula services are available to all beneficiaries enrolled in fee-for-service or managed care programs within the DC Medicaid, Health Care Alliance, and the Immigrant Children’s Program. The Medicaid Doula SPA was approved by CMS on September 28, 2022 and allows for federal financial participation for Medicaid doula services.

Scope of Services

Doulas will provide services and supports to birthing parents enrolled in DHCF health programs. Specifically, doula services include up to twelve (12) visits for a person who is pregnant or in the six (6) months after their pregnancy ends. Doula services are separated into two (2) periods: the

perinatal period (before, during, and up to six (6) weeks after delivery) and the doula postpartum period (beginning on the last day of pregnancy and extending through the end of the calendar month in which one hundred eighty (180) days after the end of the pregnancy falls). Doulas will be expected to use the initial visit with a beneficiary to develop a Care Plan for both the perinatal and postpartum periods.

- During the perinatal period, services include:
 - (1) Perinatal counseling and education, including infant care, to prevent adverse outcomes;
 - (2) Labor support and attendance at delivery, including the development of a birth plan; and
 - (3) Coordination with community-based services, to improve beneficiary outcomes.
- During the postpartum period, services include:
 - (1) Visits with the beneficiary to provide basic infant care;
 - (2) Accompanying the beneficiary to a clinician visit;
 - (3) Lactation support; and
 - (4) Emotional and physical support.

Limits: Doula services are limited to a total of twelve (12) visits per beneficiary across the perinatal and the postpartum period. Doula services are provided as preventive services in DHCF health programs and must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law to prevent perinatal complications and/or promote the physical and mental health of the beneficiary.

Provider Qualifications

Qualified doula providers must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and possess a current certification by a doula training program or organization, approved by DHCF. For more information on eligible certifications and information that doulas will have to provide to successfully enroll in the program, please see Attachment A (below).

Doula Enrollment

In order to provide doula services, doulas are required to enroll as DHCF provider. This initial enrollment makes doulas eligible to serve fee-for-service Medicaid beneficiaries and allows doulas to enroll in Medicaid managed care organizations that serve Medicaid, Alliance, and ICP clients.

DHCF Enrollment Instructions: The first step to enroll in DHCF health programs as a doula is to create an account at www.dcpdms.com and submit an online enrollment application. When creating the account, doulas should begin the enrollment process by selecting the application type: Standard Application and then selecting provider type: Doula. Each doula must enroll as an “individual/solo” doula. DHCF allows one or more doulas to enroll as a group of Doulas by completing a group application and then affiliating each doula with the doula group.

Managed Care Enrollment: The District is currently contracted with four (4) Managed Care Organizations to provide services to DHCF beneficiaries, and they are AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia, CareFirst Community Health Plan District of Columbia, Health Services for

Children with Special Needs, and MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia. Once doulas have completed the enrollment process with DHCF and are given NPI and Taxonomy number, they are then eligible to enroll with a managed care organization. To obtain more information regarding each health plan’s enrollment and credentialing process, please visit their websites listed below:

- AmeriHealth:
<https://www.amerihealthcaritasdc.com/provider/new-to-the-plan/index.aspx>
- CareFirst Community Health Plan: <https://www.carefirstchpdc.com/credentialing.html>
- MedStar Family Choice:
<https://www.medstarfamilychoicedc.com/providers/become-a-provider>
- Health Services for Children with Special Needs (HSCSN):
<https://hscsnhealthplan.org/health-providers/become-provider>

DHCF MCOs must establish provider agreements with and enroll doulas, as doula services are now a covered benefit for health coverage programs administered by DHCF. The addition of doula services as a covered benefit does not invalidate existing contracts between doula service providers and MCOs nor prohibit future contracts between doula service providers and MCOs.

Doula Services Rates and Billing

Once enrolled, doulas will be able to bill DHCF for services delivered to fee-for-service Medicaid clients. The following codes and rates are being added to the DHCF Fee Schedule and are intended to be used by doulas to treat their clients.

CPT Code Description	CPT Code	Modifier	Rate
Perinatal Doula Support Visit	99600	HD	\$97.04
Doula Support at Delivery HD -Vaginal Delivery	59400	HD	\$686.23
Doula Support at Delivery HD -c-section	59514	HD	\$686.23
Doula Support at Delivery HD -V-BAC	59612	HD	\$686.23
Postpartum Doula Support-15 Minute Increment	99199	HD	\$12.13
Doula Incentive Payment for Obstetric Postpartum Visit 7 to 84 Days After Labor and Delivery	99199	HD U8	\$100.00

Managed Care Rates and Utilization Management

As with other provider types, DHCF will be directing managed care organization (MCO) payment of doula services by establishing minimum reimbursement rates using the rates outlined above. Doulas enrolled with MCOs will be expected to collaborate with a beneficiary’s managed care case manager and the MCO’s utilization management team to coordinate doula services.

How to Bill Medicaid

Medicaid Fee for Service: Once enrolled in the Fee for Service Medicaid program (through DHCF), doulas can bill the DHCF after logging in through the Provider Portal at <https://www.dc-medicaid.com/dcwebportal/home>. After logging in, doulas will need to select “Claims Entry”, and then “CMS 1500/Medicare Part B” with the Medicaid ID of the client and the NPI of the doula. After accessing the Claims Entry form, doulas will then need to enter the appropriate billing code and modifier. Doulas may also submit claims through software provided by their employing entity or billing specialists.

For guidance on using the Provider Portal, please see:

<https://www.dc-medicaid.com/dcwebportal/documentInformation/getDocument/28194>

Medicaid Managed Care: Providers should follow instructions provided by the enrollee's MCO for billing for doula services, which will be provided during the enrollment process. MCOs are required to reimburse providers at the rates published in this transmittal. Contact the appropriate MCO for more information:

- AmeriHealth Caritas DC Provider Services: 202-408-2237 or 1-888-656-2383
- CareFirst Community Health Plan DC Provider Services: 202-821-1100
- HSCSN Provider Services: 202-467- 2737
- MedStar Family Choice-DC Provider Services: 855-798-4244

Follow Up and Contact

If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact Taylor Woods, Special Projects Officer, Health Care Policy and Research Administration, at taylor.woods2@dc.gov. For questions about doula enrollment and billing, please contact Natasha Lewis, Program Manager, Division of Public and Private Provider Services, Health Care Operations Administration at natasha.lewis@dc.gov or via telephone at (202) 698-2006. For questions about doula rates, please contact Samuel Woldeghiorgis, Associate Director, Division of Rates, Reimbursement, and Financial Analysis, Office of the Deputy Director, via email at Samuel.woldeghiorgis@dc.gov or via telephone at (202) 442-9240.

Cc: DC Medical Care Advisory Committee Stakeholders
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
Medical Society of DC

Attachment A- Doula Enrollment Standards

Background on Doula Certification

DC Health is required to develop a certification process for doulas. Until the District certification standard is in place, DHCF will enroll doulas who meet the criteria listed below. Once DC Health's certification process for doulas is fully in place, it will supersede DHCF's criteria for doula certification and only doulas certified by DC Health will be able to enroll in and bill DHCF.

Doula Enrollment

Qualified doula providers must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and possess a current certification by a doula training program or organization, approved by DHCF.

In order to provide doula services, doulas are required to enroll in the DC Medicaid program. The first step to enroll is to create an account at www.dcpdms.com and submit an online enrollment application. When creating the account, doulas should begin the enrollment process by selecting the application type: **Standard Application** and then selecting provider type: **Doula**. Each doula must enroll as an "individual/solo" doula. We also allow one or more doulas to enroll as a group of Doulas by completing a group application and then affiliating each doula with the doula group.

In addition to general enrollment requirements, all doulas must provide the following documents/information:

1. Certificate of Occupancy (or Lease) or Business License
2. Disclosure of Ownership
3. NPI # and Taxonomy
4. Professional Certification (Interim until DC Health creates a Certification)
5. Proof of Liability Insurance of at least \$1M per occurrence/\$3M per aggregate
6. W-9
7. *Proof of doula certification from the District (once available)*

Acceptable doula certification will include certifications from the following doula training entities:

1. Doula Trainings International
2. The Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA)
3. Black Doula Training (formerly the Black Doula Institute)
4. Ancient Song Doula Services
5. Mamatoto Village
6. Doulas of North America (DONA)
7. International Childbirth Education Center
8. Childbirth International (CBI)
9. MaternityWise
10. Birth in Color RVA
11. Birthworks International
12. Childbirth Professionals International
13. Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.
14. HealthConnect One

15. International Center for Traditional Childbearing - Black Doulas for Black Mamas
16. International Childbirth Education Association
17. Mother Health International
18. SMC Full Circle Training
19. Shafia Monroe-Doula Training
20. ToLABOR
21. Urban Baby Beginnings

Managed Care

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- CareFirst Community Health Plan: <https://www.carefirstchpdc.com/credentialing.html>
- MedStar Family Choice:
<https://www.medstarfamilychoicedc.com/providers/become-a-provider>
- Health Services for Children with Special Needs:
<https://hscsnhealthplan.org/health-providers/become-provider>