



Medicaid Doula Coverage

July 24, 2024





Doula Coverage Overview



- South Dakota Medicaid is planning to implement doula coverage in fall/winter 2024 pending system programming.
- A doula is a trained professional who provides emotional, physical, and informational support during the prenatal, labor, delivery, and postpartum periods.
- Doulas are non-clinical and do not provide medical care. Doulas services do not replace the services of licensed and trained medical professionals

Doula Coverage Overview

- Doulas will be reimbursed for care coordination, support services during the prenatal and postpartum periods, as well as labor and delivery support services.
- Services require a referral from a physician or other licensed practitioner.
- Doulas will be reimbursed on a 15 minute unit basis and at a flat fee for labor and delivery.
- Coverage and reimbursement descriptions in the document are in draft form and subject to change.

Doula Draft Policies

Prenatal Services Draft Policy

The following services are covered as prenatal doula services:

- Promoting health literacy and knowledge;
- Answering questions about birthing options to help recipients make informed decisions;
- Assisting with the development of a birth plan;
- Assisting recipient with the development of postpartum plans;
- Assisting recipients with how to communicate effectively with their healthcare providers;
- Supporting personal and cultural preferences around childbirth;
- Providing emotional support and encouraging self-advocacy;
- Providing evidence-based information associated with positive health outcomes; and
- Time spent with the recipient collecting intake information and developing the initial doula service plan.

Feedback?

Labor and Delivery Services Draft Policy

The following services are covered as labor and delivery services:

- Providing physical comfort measures;
- Providing emotional support including continuous reassurance and encouragement;
- Helping empower recipients to advocate for their needs; and
- Being an active member of the birth team.

Feedback?

Postpartum Services Draft Policy

The following services are covered as postpartum doula services:

- Providing emotional support and encouraging self-care measures;
- Assisting recipients with how to communicate effectively with their healthcare providers;
- Providing evidence-based information associated with positive health outcomes;
- Educating the recipient regarding newborn care, nutrition, and safety, including safe sleep habits; and
- Time spent with the recipient collecting intake information and developing the initial doula service plan if services are not initiated until the postpartum period.

Feedback?

Care Coordination Services Draft Policy

Doulas will assist all recipients they serve with the following care coordination services:

- Helping the recipient choose a healthcare provider if care has not been established;
- Helping the recipient schedule prenatal or postpartum care appointments, encouraging them to attend appointments, and helping them problem-solve barriers that may impede attendance;
- Promoting and referring recipients to Department of Health pregnancy-related programs including Bright Start, Pregnancy Care, and WIC programs;
- Helping the recipient pick a primary care provider for the baby;
- Helping the recipient schedule well-child check-ups, encouraging them to attend appointments, and helping them problem-solve barriers that may impede attendance; and
- Providing information about community-based support services to address health-related social needs including transportation, housing, food insecurity, personal safety, and employment and helping them connect to those resources.

Feedback?

Other Coverage Information and Limits

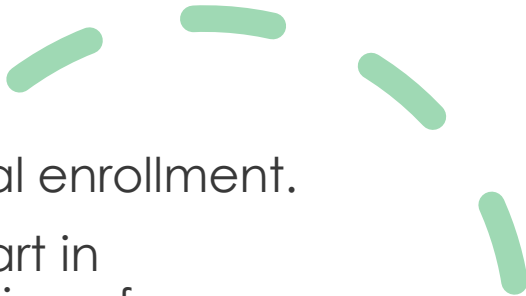
- Medicaid covers a maximum of 60 hours of prenatal, postpartum, and care coordination services per pregnancy.
 - This limit may be exceeded if additional hours are prior authorized by Medicaid.
- Labor and delivery services must be provided in conjunction with prenatal and/or postpartum doula services.
- The doula must be physically present during labor and delivery to bill for this service.
- Doulas must continue to provide services for a minimum of one hour after delivery.
- Postpartum doula services may be provided up to 365 days after the end of the pregnancy contingent upon the recipient maintaining eligibility for South Dakota Medicaid.

Feedback?

Credentialling and Enrollment



Enrollment Draft Policy

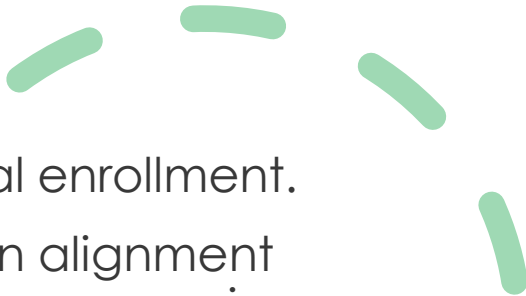
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- Medicaid will allow for individual enrollment.
 - Coverage/enrollment would start in Fall/Winter 24 pending completion of programming.
 - Expectation is that doulas pursue being credentialed by an external oversight body. Once in place, Medicaid enrollment requirements would be updated to require being credentialed by the oversight body.

Feedback?

Credentialling and Enrollment



Enrollment Draft Policy

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- Medicaid will allow for individual enrollment.
 - Coverage/enrollment will start in alignment with completion of the system programming.
 - Expectation is that doulas pursue being credentialed by an external oversight body. Once in place, Medicaid enrollment requirements would be updated to require being credentialed by the oversight body.

Feedback?

Enrollment

In order to enroll with South Dakota Medicaid, doulas must be credentialed by one of the following organizations:

- BirthWorks International;
- Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA);
- Childbirth Professionals International;
- Doula Trainings International;
- DONA International;
- International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA); or
- MaternityWise.

Feedback?

Next Steps

Next Steps



Draft state plan amendment and notice documents.



Work with BIT to complete associated system programming.



Hold training around implementation date.