



# Medi-Cal Doula Benefit Stakeholder Meeting October 27, 2022

DHCS Benefits Division

# Agenda

Agenda Items		
1	Welcome, Introductory Remarks, and Logistics (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Lisa Murawski, Chief, Benefits Division</li><li>•Deitre Epps, CEO, RACE for Equity</li></ul>
2	SPA and Provider Manual Overview (10 minutes)	DHCS Staff
3	Final SPA Review (40 minutes)	DHCS Staff and Doula Workgroup
4	Break (10 minutes)	
6	Provider Manual Review of Updates (35 minutes)	DHCS Staff and Doula Workgroup
7	Updates and Next Steps (15 minutes)	DHCS Staff

# SPA and Provider Manual Overview

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, ranging from a deep magenta to a light lavender. The bands flow across the width of the page, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# State Plan vs. Provider Manual

## State Plan Amendment

- Contract with CMS on what services for which they will pay
- Updates require federal approval
- Broad description of covered services

## Provider Manual

- Policy guidance to providers
- Updates at DHCS' discretion
- Includes covered and non-covered services
- List of billing codes

# Example: Covered Services

## State Plan

- “Doula services encompass the health education; advocacy; and physical, emotional, and nonmedical support provided before, during, and after childbirth or end of a pregnancy, including throughout the postpartum period.”

## Provider Manual

“Full-spectrum doula care: Prenatal and postpartum doula care, presence during labor and delivery, and doula support for miscarriage, stillbirth, and abortion. Doula care includes physical, emotional, and other nonmedical care.”

# Example: Visits

## State Plan

"An additional recommendation from a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts is required for more than 11 visits during the perinatal period, excluding labor and delivery and miscarriage support."

## Provider Manual

A recommendation for services authorizes the following:

- One initial visit.
- Up to eight additional one-hour visits that may be provided in any combination of prenatal and postpartum visits.
- Support during labor and delivery (including labor and delivery resulting in a stillbirth), abortion or miscarriage.
- Up to two extended three-hour postpartum visits after the end of a pregnancy.

# SPA, Provider Manual, and All Plan Letter Timelines

- » October 14 – End of comment period from stakeholders.
- » Early November – DHCS expects to formally submit the SPA to CMS
- » Early November – Draft All Plan Letter sent to managed care plans for review and comment
- » Early November – Provider Manual submitted for publication
- » Early December – All Plan Letter published
- » December 16 – Provider Manual published

# **State Plan Amendment Final Review and Feedback**

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, extending across the width of the slide below the main title.



# Final SPA Submission

- » Key revisions to SPA
  - » Removed language regarding prior authorization
  - » Retained revised description of doula services
  - » Added timeframe for experience pathway

# Rates for Doula Services

- » Initial visit: \$126.31 (90 minutes)
- » Prenatal visit: \$60.48
- » Postpartum visit: \$60.48
- » Extended postpartum support: \$180 for a three-hour visit
- » Support during vaginal delivery: \$544.28
- » Support during caesarian section: \$544.72
- » Support during or after miscarriage: \$250.48
- » Support during or after abortion: \$250.48

# **Provider Manual Review and Feedback**

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, extending across the width of the slide below the main title.

# Key Revisions

- » Updated definition of “doula”
- » Removed language regarding prior authorization
- » Allow for support during labor and delivery via telehealth
- » Removed duration requirements for perinatal visits

# Next Steps

The slide features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, ranging from a deep magenta to a light lavender. These bands are positioned below the main title and extend across the width of the slide.

# Upcoming Trainings

- » **Enrollment:** Enrolling as a provider using Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) portal
  - » Required documents and/or attestations
  - » Obtaining a National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- » **Managed Care Contracting:** Contracting with managed care plans to provide services to beneficiaries in plans
- » **Fee-for-Service billing:** Submitting invoices to DHCS for services provided to beneficiaries with fee-for-service

# Needs Assessment

- » DHCS and RACE for Equity are conducting an assessment of other needed training
  - » Creating documentation for claims/invoices
  - » Determining eligibility
- » Suggestions from workgroup?

# Doula Benefit Implementation Provider Enrollment Notifications

- » Provider Enrollment Division will publish a bulletin that will authorize doulas to enroll starting in January 2023
  - » No Established Place of Business requirements
- » October 31 (tentative): Provider Bulletin sent to stakeholders
  - » [DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov)
- » November 17: Virtual stakeholder hearing
  - » Comments accepted until 5:00 p.m. electronically
- » December 1: Provider bulletin published
- » January 1: Provider bulletin takes effect 30 days after published



# Looking Ahead

- » Ongoing work with hospitals to allow doulas to be part of the birth team
- » Workgroup focus to transition to training opportunities and implementation
- » Work toward implementing Senate Bill (SB) 65 stakeholder requirements
- » Seek applications for new members to monitor implementation in early December
  - » Focus on access, minimizing barriers to payment, and outreach
  - » Workgroup representatives required by SB 65
- » SB 65 stakeholder workgroup will begin meeting in March 2023

# **Future Stakeholder Meetings**

November 21, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

January 2023, date TBD

# Purpose of Doula Workgroup

- » “The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will convene a stakeholder discussion workgroup to inform the Department’s development of the doula benefit in the Medi-Cal program. DHCS is looking to recruit a diverse set of stakeholders who can meaningfully contribute to the discussion by providing input on the doula benefit, including doula qualifications to provide Medi-Cal services, supervision of doulas, and the description of services that will be covered, prior to submitting a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and throughout the development of the policy.”

# Workgroup Accomplishments!

- » Developed the SPA for submission
- » Identified qualifications for doulas to enroll, and details about how to demonstrate qualifications
- » Defined “doulas” and “doula services”
- » Developed the Provider Manual to establish the policy
- » Established a communication pathway between the DHCS Benefits team and the community doulas
- » Collaborated to develop a model doula Medicaid benefit!

# Questions?

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, spanning the width of the slide below the main text.

# Contact Information

» Written comments are welcome:

➤ [DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov)

» For more information:

➤ <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Doula-Services.aspx>