



Doula Medi-Cal Benefit Stakeholder Meeting

September 16, 2021
DHCS Benefits Division



Agenda

Agenda Items		
1.	Introductory Comments (15 minutes)	DHCS Staff
2.	Meeting Norms and Structure (5 minutes)	DHCS Staff
3.	Doula State Plan Amendment (SPA) Process and Requirements (30 minutes)	DHCS Staff
4.	Tentative Schedule (5 minutes)	DHCS Staff
5.	Clarifying Questions (10 minutes)	DHCS Staff
6.	<p>Stakeholder Comments (50 minutes)</p> <p>Please limit comments to those relevant to the development of the doula benefit in Medi-Cal. You may choose to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How should doula services be defined—which specific activities of a doula should qualify as Medi-Cal billable? - What qualifications should a doula meet to enroll in Medi-Cal? - Who can supervise a doula? - Important use cases for doulas in Medi-Cal - Other related concerns 	All
7.	Wrap-up and Next Steps (5 minutes)	DHCS Staff



Overview

- Authorized pursuant to Budget Act of 2021.
- Doula services will be available in fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems.
- Effective January 1, 2022.
- Adding services requires a State Plan Amendment (SPA).



Overview

- Adding doula services under Medicaid “Preventive Services” category.
 - Allows DHCS to create a new provider type so that doulas can bill independently
- Coverage during pregnancy, labor & delivery, and postpartum period.
 - Includes coverage during miscarriage and abortion



Preventive Services

- Federal Medicaid regulations¹ define preventive services as services recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner within their scope of practice to—
 - Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression
 - Prolong life, and
 - Promote physical and mental health and efficiency

(1) Title 42, Section 440.130(c), of the Code of Federal Regulations



Preventive Services

- Preventive services²:
 - involve direct patient care; and
 - are for the express purpose of diagnosing, treating or preventing (or minimizing the adverse effects of) illness, injury or other impairments to an individual's physical or mental health.

(2) Section 4385 of the State Medicaid Manual



Stakeholder Engagement

- Purpose
 1. To seek input for a SPA that identifies doula services as a covered benefit, eligible for federal matching funds.
 - Full-scope Medi-Cal
 - Pregnancy-related services
 2. To seek input for updates to the Provider Manual, describing doula services



SPA requirements

For unlicensed providers of preventive services, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that the State Plan:

1. Define the services
2. Define the service provider and their qualifications
3. Define supervision



SPA requirements

1. Define the services:

The SPA must list the services to be provided to ensure services meet the definition of prevention in the federal State Medicaid Manual



SPA requirements

2. Define service provider and qualifications:

- Identify the type(s) of non-licensed practitioners who may furnish services
- Include a summary of the provider's qualifications to furnish services, including “any required education, training, experience, credentialing, oversight, and/or registration”



SPA requirements

3. Define supervision:

- CMS requires that unlicensed providers be supervised.
- Who can supervise a doula?
 - Enrolled licensed provider, including clinics



Other State Medicaid Programs - Minnesota

- Added under Pregnancy-related and Postpartum Services July 1, 2014
- Covers childbirth education and support services, which includes emotional and physical support, provided during pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum.
- Must be supervised by physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife.
- Must be certified by one of several organizations listed in the State Plan



Other State Medicaid Programs - Oregon

- Added under Preventive Services in 2017
- Covers personal, non-medical support to women and families throughout pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum period. This includes emotional and physical support.
- State Plan includes the following:
 - Provider qualifications
 - Certification standards
 - Core curriculum
 - Non-covered services



Other State Medicaid Programs – New Jersey

- Added under Preventive Services on January 1, 2021
- Doulas offer support, guidance, evidence-based education, practical support during childbirth, and linkages to community-based resources.
- Doulas must complete training in core competencies
- Training must be approved by New Jersey Department of Health Services



DHCS Considerations

- Defining the services doulas may perform
- Understand existing standards used for qualifications
- Flexibility in supervision
- Develop the SPA to obtain CMS approval
- Develop additional details in the Provider Manual



Identified SPA needs

- Description of doula services
- Qualifications to provide doula services
 - Education, training, experience, credentialing, supervision, oversight, and/or registration
- Potential supervisors



Next Steps

- DHCS will release a stakeholder workgroup application
- A smaller, representative workgroup will be formed to facilitate discussion
- All stakeholders can provide input and listen to future meetings as the SPA and policy are developed
- Two more stakeholder meetings



Tentative Schedule

September 16	Stakeholder meeting and solicitation for workgroup
September 27	Deadline for submissions for workgroup
October 1	Deadline for stakeholder comments
October 4	Stakeholders notified
October 20	Stakeholder workgroup meeting
November 1	Deadline for stakeholder feedback
November 5	Stakeholder workgroup meeting
November 12	Informal SPA submission to CMS
December 10	CMS Feedback (approximate)
December 31	DHCS plans to formally submit SPA to CMS
February 2022	DHCS publishes doula provider manual pages



Clarifying Questions

(Will be moderated via chat)



Stakeholder Comments

- Which specific activities of a doula should qualify as Medi-Cal billable under preventive services?



Stakeholder Comments

- What qualifications should a provider meet to provide doula services?
 - CMS requires a summary of the provider's qualifications to furnish services, including “any required education, training, experience, credentialing, oversight, and/or registration”



Stakeholder Comments

- Who can supervise a doula?
 - Examples – physician, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife



Stakeholder Comments

- Are there any use cases we should be sure to capture, as we define doula services?
- Other related comments?



Stakeholder Comments

- How should doula services be defined—which specific activities of a doula should qualify as Medi-Cal billable?
- What qualifications should a doula meet to enroll in Medi-Cal for reimbursement?
- Who can supervise a doula (Note: must be an enrolled provider)?
- Are there important use cases for doulas in Medi-Cal, that we want to capture in the definition?
- Other related concerns



Contact Information

Written comments are welcome!

Benefits Division

Medi-Cal.Benefits@dhcs.ca.gov