

# Perinatal Substance Exposure Collaborative Updates

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JANUARY 17, 2024

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## Important Changes to Medicaid in Latest Budget

# Maternal Child Health

- 12 Months Continuous Coverage
- Doula Services
- Lactation Services
- Donor Breast Milk

# Twelve Months of Continuous Coverage for Postpartum Women

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- \$600,000 appropriated for this program from June 30, 2023-June 30, 2025
- State Plan Amendment due August 15th, 2023
  - **The SPA was approved by CMS on November 3rd, 2023**
  - **Effective Date October 1st, 2023**
- 12 months of continuous coverage for all services
- Coverage begins sixty days following the end of pregnancy
- Continuous Coverage = remain eligible even if income changes would make them ineligible
- Includes Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

# Reporting on Continuous Coverage

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**WHO:** COMMISSIONER TO SUBMIT  
REPORTS TO DHHS OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,  
AND THE GOVERNOR

**WHEN:** STARTING JANUARY 1ST, 2024  
AND CONTINUING ON A QUARTERLY  
BASIS

**REPORTS SHOULD INCLUDE:** PLANS  
FOR REDUCING  
ENROLLMENT HARDSHIPS, EXPANSION  
ACCESS, AND PARTICIPATION IN  
VOLUNTARY MATERNAL HOME VISITS

# Medicaid/CHIP Coverage for Lawfully Residing Pregnant Women and Children

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- \$336,000 appropriated for this purpose June 30, 2023- June 30, 2025
- State Plan Amendment due January 1st, 2024
  - *SPA has not yet been approved by CMS*
- Coverage expanded to lawfully-residing pregnant women and children
  - No longer required to wait for five-year period
- Children up to 19 years of age and pregnant women who would otherwise be eligible can be covered

# Doula Services

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- \$300,000 appropriated from June 30, 2023 – June 30, 2025
- Requires doula services to be covered by NH Medicaid
- Grants authority to state to obtain relevant State Plan Amendment or waivers necessary to implement provision of doula services
  - *SPA has not yet been approved by CMS*
- Reporting required starts January 31, 2025
  - Commissioner to report to DHHS oversight committee, legislative committees, and governor
  - Reporting Metrics TBD
- Every 2 years reimbursement rates will be assessed for rate adjustment

# Doula Services—What are they?

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**Doula Services**--"designed to provide physical, emotional, and educational support to women before, during, and after childbirth"

provided by a "highly-qualified doula certified by the state"

## Doula services will include:

1. Support and assistance during labor and childbirth
2. Prenatal and Postpartum support and education
3. Breastfeeding assistance and location support
4. Support for a birthing person following loss of a pregnancy

# Lactation Services

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- \$300,000 appropriated from June 30, 2023- June 30, 2025
- Required to be provided in NH Medicaid as a component of pregnancy-related services
- **State Plan Amendment was approved on November 29, 2023**
  - **Effective Date: July 1st, 2023**



# Lactation Services

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Services include but are not limited to:

- Breastfeeding education;
- Comprehensive maternal, infant and feeding assessment related to breastfeeding and lactation; and
- Individual and group lactation counseling

# Lactation Service Providers

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Services may be provided by the following Medicaid enrolled provider types, within their scope of practice according to state law:

- Licensed Physician;
- Licensed Physician Assistant;
- Licensed Osteopath;
- Certified Midwife;
- Licensed Advanced Practice Nurse;
- Other professional or paraprofessional healthcare practitioners who have completed training in the provision of lactation consultation services and must provide services under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.

# Lactation Services

Can be billed under existing categories of services: inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, EPSDT, physician's services, nurse mid-wife services, freestanding birthing center services, Nurse Practitioner services, and other "licensed practitioners"



## Lactation services include:

Breastfeeding  
Education

Individual Lactation  
Consultation

Equipment Rentals

# Donor Breastmilk Services

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- \$250,000 appropriated from June 30, 2023- June 30, 2025
- State Plan Amendment to be submitted by September 30, 2023
  - SPA was approved by CMS on November 17, 2023
  - Payments for service can be covered back to July 1st, 2023
- NH Medicaid required to reimburse for donor breastmilk provision under specific circumstances

# Donor Breast Milk Eligibility Criteria

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Infant is physically or medically unable to receive breastmilk

Mother is unable to produce

Born at a weight less than 1500 grams

Gastrointestinal/digestive complications

Recovering from intestinal surgery

Not appropriately gaining weight/growing

Formula intolerance with difficulty feed or weight loss

Low blood sugar

Congenital heart disease

Organ transplant

Additional medical condition where breastmilk is necessary

# Additional Approved State Plan Amendments by CMS

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- Budget Rate Increase for Freestanding Birthing Centers
  - SPA was approved by CMS on November 8, 2023
  - Effective Date July 1st, 2023
  
- Budget Rate Increase extended services to pregnant women and personal care services
  - SPA was approved by CMS on November 8, 2023
  - Effective Date July 1st, 2023

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# Thank you!

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