



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2022-27

Provider Bulletin 2022-33
April 2022

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: May 1, 2022
Contact: See Below

TO: All Providers

RE: Extension of Postpartum Care

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP, P.L. 117-2, Sections 9812 and 9822) gave states the option to extend postpartum care in Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months, starting on April 1, 2022. States that elect this option must also provide the same coverage in CHIP (excluding the new HUSKY B Prenatal Program). Pregnant adolescents eligible as a “targeted low-income child” in CHIP/HUSKY B can receive prenatal and postpartum care along with other child health assistance. The newly extended postpartum coverage option offered states an opportunity to provide care that can reduce pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity. During the last legislative session, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted legislation to require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to extend postpartum care for 12 months. Public Act 21-2, §§ 335 & 336 (June Special Session).

Effective April 1, 2022, this extended benefit will provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to eligible Connecticut Medicaid and CHIP (HUSKY B) beneficiaries whose pregnancy ended on or after April 1, 2022. It also allows postpartum coverage for individuals whose pregnancy ended prior to April 1, 2022 but are still within their 12 month postpartum period. Coverage will end on the last day of the month that their 12-month postpartum period ends. Individuals are entitled to the extended postpartum coverage regardless of the reason the pregnancy ends.

Pregnant individuals eligible for Medicaid are eligible for all Medicaid covered services (medical, dental, and behavioral health services) during the extended postpartum period. A pregnant adolescent who is eligible as a “targeted low-income child” in CHIP/HUSKY B can receive prenatal and postpartum care along with other child health assistance (medical, dental, and behavioral health services) under HUSKY B.

Beneficiaries will remain eligible regardless of changes in their circumstances that may affect eligibility, such as a change in income or family size. Disenrollment will occur if a beneficiary moves out of state; voluntarily requests disenrollment; or dies.

Please note that beneficiaries enrolled in the HUSKY B Prenatal Group are not currently eligible for postpartum coverage. At the end of their pregnancy, per federal requirements, coverage will be limited to the treatment of emergency conditions. Pursuant to Public Act 21-176, § 2, coverage using state funds for postpartum services through 12 months post-delivery, is not effective until April 1, 2023.

Enrollment

Beneficiaries do not need to apply for this coverage. DSS will automatically assess eligibility upon notification of birth or end of pregnancy.

Systems:

Eligibility system changes are in progress. Once the system changes have been

completed, enrollment extensions will be processed. We will use the information in our system about an individual's recent pregnancy to determine eligibility for an extension. Those who qualify for an extension will receive a notice confirming enrollment. Enrollment extensions will be effective April 1, 2022 and provide coverage for up to 12 months of the postpartum period. Individuals will not experience a gap in coverage due to public health emergency extensions that are currently in place.

For more information, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/HUSKY/New-Prenatal-Coverage-and-Extended-Postpartum-Coverage>

Posting Instructions:

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Distribution:

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Responsible Unit:

For Questions Related to Eligibility: DSS Medical Eligibility Policy at EligPolicy.DSS@ct.gov

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