Florida

Healthcare Provider and Community Partner Update

Florida Health Justice Project

March of Dimes®

Pacify

MARCH OF DIMES®

Healthcare Provider and Community Partner Update

Medicaid now covers those with pregnancy Medicaid one year postpartum

Maternal health in Florida

In 2019, there were 43 pregnancy-related deaths in the state—a pregnancy-related mortality ratio of 19.5 per 100,000 live births—nearly 35% of which occurred after hospital discharge and up to one year postpartum, indicating there is an opportunity in the postpartum period to reduce maternal deaths.

Of deaths that happened after hospital discharge, the leading causes were: cardiovascular problems, thrombotic embolism, and hypertensive disorder. Some of these deaths may have been prevented with appropriate care through the postpartum period.

New law extends pregnancy Medicaid to one year postpartum

A new law in Florida has extended the Medicaid postpartum coverage period from 60 days to 12 months. Postpartum coverage is not limited to postpartum visits, but covers all Medicaid services, including:

- **Reproductive services,** up to two postpartum visits, family planning, and testing for sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Primary care** to treat conditions like asthma, high blood pressure or diabetes, or when they are sick.
- **Specialty care** to treat conditions such as cardiovascular disease and other chronic health conditions.
- **Dental services,** a comprehensive oral evaluation, and procedures to eliminate pain or infection.
- **Mental health services** for depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and other mental health conditions. Services covered include assessments; medical and psychiatric services; individual, family and group therapy; and rehabilitative services.
- **Doula services**
- **Emergency care**
- **Prescription drug benefits**
- **Transportation to medical services**

Pacify

FLORIDA HEALTH JUSTICE PROJECT

What providers and community partners can do

1. **Start the conversation about the importance of their postpartum appointment and receiving ongoing healthcare** in that first postpartum year during the third trimester. Include the importance of knowing who their primary care provider is. If they don't know who that is, advise them to reach out to their health plan to find out.
2. **Have them schedule their postpartum visit** when they are around 36 weeks.
3. **Ensure they have a comprehensive postpartum visit within 12 weeks.** Those with chronic medical conditions, such as hypertensive disorders, obesity, diabetes, thyroid disorders, renal disease, mood disorders, and substance use disorders, should be counseled regarding the importance of timely follow-up with their primary care providers for ongoing coordination of care.
4. **Inform postpartum individuals of the new extended period of Medicaid** benefits and services covered, and encourage them to access the care they need during this time.
5. **Share the March of Dimes informational flyer** for pregnant and postpartum individuals on the services covered by Medicaid. Available for download in English and Spanish at **marchofdimes.org/florida-medicaid.**

Those who experienced pregnancy loss are also covered

- People who have experienced a miscarriage or a fetal or infant death are also covered by Medicaid for all services for a full year after pregnancy.
- Connect these individuals to the physical and mental health care they need, including grief support and counseling.

Connecting postpartum individuals to care will help to:

- **Reduce maternal deaths after childbirth**
- **Reduce complications from pregnancy-related behavioral and mental health conditions**
- **Reduce complications from chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity**
- **Help moms and birthing people plan and prepare for their next pregnancy**

For more information

- Scan the QR code or visit the March of Dimes Florida postpartum Medicaid extension webpage: **marchofdimes.org/florida-medicaid**
- Questions about the Florida postpartum Medicaid extension? Email the Florida Health Justice Project at **help@FloridaHealthJustice.org**

FLORIDA HEALTH JUSTICE PROJECT

MARCH OF DIMES®

Pacify

May-23