

Welcome! The Town Hall will begin shortly.



Please take note of the following as we assemble:

- Questions can be submitted in Slido at anytime during today's town hall.
- To use Slido, visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) or scan the QR code.
- **Event Code:** NYSMedicaiddoulaservices
- Questions will be answered after the presentation.
- The chat is for attendee communication and comments and will not be monitored.

- The slide deck and webinar will be recorded and posted to the website.
- Website: [New York State Medicaid Doula Services Benefit \(ny.gov\)](https://www.ny.gov/new-york-state-medicaid-doula-services-benefit)

- To contact the Medicaid Doula Team : doulapilot@health.ny.gov

June 2023

Thank you!



**Department
of Health**

NYS Medicaid Doula Services Benefit June 20, 2023 Town Hall

**Office of Health Insurance Programs
Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Policy**

Town Hall

Please note that by participating in today's online event, you acknowledge and consent that your personal information (such as name, image) may be visible to others in the live online meeting as well as captured in the recording, which will be posted on our website.

The feedback in the context of this meeting will not be considered formal public comment on the proposed State Plan Amendment.

Goals and Roadmap for Today

2:00-2:05 PM: Introduction

2:05-3:00 PM: Presentation by NYS Pilot-Enrolled Doula Followed by Q&A

3:00-3:55 PM: Definition of NYS Medicaid Doula & Doula Services; Discussion Throughout

3:55-4:00 PM: Closing

Guidelines for Sharing

- All are invited to speak at designated times
- Please use the "Raise your hand" function to note the desire to speak
- Individuals will be unmuted in order of request, unless they have already spoken, in which case individuals who have not yet spoken will be given priority
- Please keep comments to three minutes or less
- Reminder, questions can be submitted in Slido
 - To use Slido, visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com)
 - Event Code: NYSMedicaiddoulaservices

Erie County Pilot Doula Sharing

Doula Sharing: 30 minutes

- Rachel Tibold
- Njeri Motley
- Shannon Johns

Q&A for Pilot Doulas: 30 minutes

June 2023

Changes Made Based on Prior Town Hall Discussion

- Meetings lengthened to two hours
- Additional meetings in 2023 added
- Webinar video-enabled
- Attendees can see participant list
- Featuring of doulas participating in Erie County pilot
- Building in more time for discussion and stakeholder participation
- Reduction of time the state is speaking
- Language revision from “licensed Medicaid-enrolled provider must be in attendance” to “licensed provider must be in attendance” for doula labor and delivery service to be reimbursed.

June 2023

NYS Medicaid State Plan – Doula Services

- Doula services will be categorized as preventive medical service in the State Plan
- To follow federal Medicaid law, [42 C.F.R. Section 440.130\(c\)](#), a preventive service must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of authorized practice under State law to:
 - (1) Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression;
 - (2) Prolong life; and
 - (3) Promote physical and mental health and efficiency.

This Means:

- This language is required in NY's Medicaid State Plan and doula services benefit policy
- For NYS Medicaid-enrolled doula providers to receive reimbursement for doula services rendered to Medicaid members, a recommendation for services provided by a licensed provider must be acquired and documented by the providing doula.
- The Department of Health is considering options for documentation of recommendation of doula services

Definitions of Medicaid Doulas

New York Pilot: A [doula](#), also known as a birth companion, birth coach, or post-birth supporter, is a non-medical person who has received training to provide physical, emotional, and informational support to members before, during, and after birth.

California: Defines doula services in the [SPA](#), does not define the doula. Does specify that doulas offer various types of support, including perinatal, labor and miscarriage support and guidance; health navigation; evidence-based education for prenatal, postpartum, childbirth, and newborn/infant care; lactation support; development of a birth plan; and linkages to community-based resources. In the [Provider Manual](#), CA defines doulas as birth workers who provide health education, advocacy, and physical, emotional and nonmedical support for pregnant and postpartum persons before, during and after childbirth (perinatal period) including support during miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion. Doulas are not licensed or clinical providers, and they do not require supervision.

Minnesota: Defines doula services in the [SPA](#), does not define the doula. On the [MN Doula Registry](#), doulas are defined as individuals who provide continuous emotional and physical support throughout birth and labor, and intermittently during the prenatal and the post-partum periods.

Definitions of Doulas in Medicaid

New Jersey: In the [SPA](#), doulas support the pregnant individual throughout the pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum experience, with the goal of improving outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Doulas offer support, guidance, evidence-based education, practical support during childbirth, and linkages to community-based resources.

Oregon: Defines doula services in the [SPA](#), does not define the doula. Specifies criteria for a doula to qualify as a Medicaid provider.

Rhode Island: Defines doula services in the [SPA](#), does not define the doula. The [RI Certification Board](#), which certifies doulas who wish to enroll as RI Medicaid providers, defines a doula as a trained professional providing continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant individual, from antepartum, intrapartum, and up to the first twelve (12) months of the postpartum period. Doulas also provide assistance by referring childbearing individuals to community-based organizations and certified and licensed perinatal professionals in multiple disciplines.

Washington, D.C.: In the [SPA](#), doulas provide support to the birthing parent throughout the pregnancy and postpartum periods to improve maternal health outcomes.

Doula Definitions Outside of Medicaid

Ancient Song: Birth doulas support people throughout any stage of pregnancy and assist them in realizing their chosen birthing plans. Postpartum doulas assist people with people who have just given birth. Because our doulas are trained in the full reproductive spectrum, we are able to provide doulas to support people through a range of reproductive health choices or situations such as abortion, adoption, birth and postpartum, miscarriage, stillbirth, and grief support.

Calming Nature: Certified and Community Birth Doula, Postpartum Doula, and Childbirth Educators that advocates, educates, and provides physical, emotional and motivational support to expectant families in the Western New York area. Our services are designed to provide mothers with comfort measures and pain management stemming from pain associated with childbirth.

Health Connect One: Community-based doulas provide culturally sensitive pregnancy and childbirth education, early linkage to health care, and other services like labor coaching, breastfeeding support, and parenting education.

Health Law: Contemporary doulas are non-medical professionals who provide emotional, physical, and informational support and guidance in different aspects of reproductive health. Doulas can support someone through menstruation, fertility, pregnancy, abortion, miscarriage, labor and delivery, stillbirth, breastfeeding, postpartum care, and end of life care. Most doulas focus on prenatal care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care. Doulas do not provide medical care, and do not replace medical providers such as physicians, midwives, and nurses. Rather, doulas provide additional support in places and times where medical providers cannot or do not, during the prenatal period, labor and delivery, and postpartum period.

New York City: A doula is a professional, trained childbirth assistant who provides non-medical support.

NYCDA: A doula is a trained birth specialist who offers various culturally sensitive services, including ongoing physical, emotional, spiritual, and informational support to clients and their families before, during, and after childbirth. Doulas help their clients prepare for birth, advocate for their wishes, encourage them to take an active role in their pregnancy journey, and assist them with their transition into parenthood.

NYS Doula Provider Proposed Definition

A doula provides physical, emotional, educational and non-medical support for pregnant and postpartum persons before, during, and after childbirth. This includes support during miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion. Doulas are not licensed, medical or clinical providers, they do not require supervision, and may provide linkages to community-based resources, childbirth and parenting resources, and licensed perinatal professionals in multiple disciplines.

Doula Service Descriptions in Medicaid

New York Pilot: Defined in the Doula Pilot [Provider Manual](#). Provide detailed information as to antepartum, labor and delivery and postpartum doula services.

California SPA: 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. Doula services are aimed at preventing perinatal complications and improving health outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Doulas offer various types of support, including perinatal, labor, and miscarriage support and guidance; health navigation; evidence-based education for prenatal, postpartum, childbirth, and newborn/infant care; lactation support; development of a birth plan; and linkages to community-based resources.

Minnesota SPA: Doula services are limited to childbirth education and support services, which includes emotional and physical support, provided during pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum.

New Jersey SPA: New Jersey intends to provide doula services for pregnant individuals during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Service components include perinatal counseling and education, including infant care, to prevent adverse outcomes; labor support, including development of a birth plan; and coordination with community-based services, to improve beneficiary outcomes.

Doula Service Descriptions in Medicaid

Oregon SPA: Doula services include personal, non-medical support to women and families throughout a woman's pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum experience. This includes emotional and physical support, provided during pregnancy, labor, birth and the postpartum period. Defines the [scope of practice](#) to include labor planning, evidence-based education related to pregnancy, birth, postpartum newborn health and family dynamics, emotional and physical support for the pregnant individual and their family, and facilitating access to resources to improve birth-related outcomes.

Rhode Island SPA: Defines [scope of service](#) to include emotional, physical and informational support, advocacy, evidence-based education, culturally appropriate care during the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods for both parent and infant. Includes referrals to health care providers for medical advice.

Washington, D.C. SPA: Doula services include perinatal counseling and education, including infant care, to prevent adverse outcomes; labor support and attendance at delivery, including the development of a birth plan; coordination with community-based services, to improve beneficiary outcomes; visits to provide basic infant care; accompanying the beneficiary to a clinician visit; lactation support; and emotional and physical support.

Doula Service Descriptions Outside of Medicaid

Ancient Song: Doula services include support through the antepartum, birth, postpartum and newborn periods, as well as through the range of reproductive health choices, including abortion, adoption, miscarriage, stillbirth, and grief support. Services include physical, informational and emotional support and advocacy, such as navigating culturally appropriate resources and attending appointments.

Calming Nature: Provide preparation, education and support for prenatal, childbirth, postpartum, parenting, and infant periods, and continuous presence during childbirth.

Health Law: Provide company and support during pregnancy and birth.

NYC: Doula services include preparation for birth, breastfeeding, continuous labor support, facilitating respectful communication between families and hospital staff. Postpartum and newborn support may include evidence-based education, cooking and household duties. Community-based doula services include home visits and offer a wider array of services and referrals for people who need more support. Community-based doula services address all the needs of their clients, including referrals to food pantries, housing programs and sources for free diapers.

Doula Service Descriptions Outside of Medicaid

NYCDA:

WHAT DOULAS DO:

- Offer culturally sensitive emotional and informational support to the client and her support person(s).
- Support the client's choices surrounding the birth, regardless of the doula's personal views.
- Facilitate positive, respectful, and constructive communication between the client, the support person(s), and the medical team.
- Recognize that the doula operates within an integrated support system, including the client's family and medical care providers, and facilitates informed, collaborative decision-making.
- Encourage the client to consult medical caregivers on any areas of medical concern.
- Doulas do not speak for the client but may prompt the client to ask questions regarding her care/treatment.
- Offer help and guidance on comfort measures such as breathing, relaxation, movement, positioning, comforting touch, visualization, and if available, hydrotherapy and use of a birth ball or peanut ball.
- Support and assists with initial breastfeeding during the first few hours after birth, and provide postpartum support during the hospital stay.
- Adhere to patient confidentiality in accordance to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

WHAT DOULAS DON'T DO:

- Diagnose medical conditions or give medical advice.
- Make decisions for the client or project the doula's own values/goals onto the client.
- While in the doula role, perform clinical tasks such as vaginal exams or assessing fetal heart tones.
- Administer medications.
- Interfere with medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

June 2023

Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Service Description

- Doula services include perinatal education, advocacy, and physical, emotional and nonmedical support provided before, during and after childbirth or end of a pregnancy, including throughout the postpartum period.
- Doula services include perinatal, labor, abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, postpartum, and newborn support and guidance; health navigation, evidence-based education; development of a birth plan; continuous labor support; facilitating communication between the Medicaid member and medical providers; and providing linkages to community-based resources.
- The service goals are to enhance direct support provided to pregnant and postpartum individuals, to improve perinatal and infant outcomes and to improve perinatal and infant attendance at medical visits.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- You may continue to share input after today's event via email to doulapilot@health.ny.gov.
- For more information, visit [New York State Medicaid Doula Services Benefit \(ny.gov\)](https://www.ny.gov/new-york-state-medicaid-doula-services-benefit).

Thank you for your feedback.

Next Meeting

Date & Time: Friday, July 7, 2023 from 9:00 – 11:00am

Registration Link: Will be sent via the list serve

To be added to the list serve: doulapilot@health.ny.gov

Next Meeting Agenda:

- Follow up on Feedback from State Plan Amendment Discussion:
 - Doula
 - Doula Service
 - Training Requirements
- Doula Provider Enrollment Training/Certification Requirements
- Discussion

June 2023

End Presentation

June 2023