



**Department  
of Health**

# **NYS Medicaid Doula Services Benefit July 7, 2023 Town Hall**

**Office of Health Insurance Programs (NYS Medicaid)  
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

**9:00-9:05 AM:** Introduction

**9:05-10:00 AM:** Presentation by Erie County Pilot Participants (Jericho Road); Followed by Q&A

**10:00-10:55 AM:** Revisit definition of NYS Medicaid Doula & Doula Services; Introduction of Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Enrollment Pathways; Discussion Throughout

**10:55-11:00 AM:** 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

# Erie County Pilot Doula Sharing

## Jericho Road Doula Sharing: 30 minutes

- Sondra Dawes, Director of Program Operations
- Francine Rwanika, Doula

## Question & Answer for Jericho Road: 30 minutes

# Follow-Up: Provider Recommendation Requirement

- Doula services will be a **preventive medical service** in the New York State Medicaid Plan.
- Federal law states that a **preventive medical service** must be **recommended by a licensed provider**, and **NYS Medicaid must comply with this federal law**.
- The challenges this requirement poses to doula clients and doula providers have been heard, and NYS Medicaid is reviewing options to facilitate access to services.

# Follow-up: Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula 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, and they do not require supervision. Doulas may provide connections to community-based resources, childbirth and parenting resources, and healthcare providers.

# Follow-up: Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Services Definition

Doula services include:

- Development of a birth plan and continuous labor support;
  - Patient-centered advocacy, and physical, emotional and nonmedical support;
  - Education, support, guidance, and health navigation;
  - Facilitating communication between the Medicaid member and medical providers; and providing connections to community-based resources.
  - The perinatal, childbirth, postpartum and newborn periods, including abortion, miscarriage and stillbirth.
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- Doula services may be provided in the hospital, clinic or community settings.
  - Doula service goals are to enhance direct support provided to pregnant and postpartum individuals, to improve perinatal and infant outcomes, to improve the Medicaid member's experience, and to improve perinatal and infant attendance at medical visits.



# Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Enrollment Pathways

## Training Pathway

- 24-hour minimum training in all required competencies (to be defined)
- Doula support provided at a minimum of three births

- Or -

## Work Experience Pathway

- 2000 hours of experience working as a birth doula within the last three years
- Testimonials of doula skills in prenatal, labor and postpartum care

# Proposed Doula Pathways, Continued

## All Pathways

- Basic HIPAA training
- Mandated reporting training (Doulas may not be expected to be mandated reporters, but may have to complete the training)
- Adult/Infant CPR
- Age 18 or older

## Continuing Education

- 6 hours annually of additional training/continuing education in any of the defined competencies

# NYS Medicaid Doula Pilot Core Competencies

Provide a signed and dated attestation of receiving doula training in the following core competencies:

- At least 24 contact hours of education that includes any combination of childbirth education, birth doula training, antepartum doula trainings, and postpartum doula training.
- Attendance at a minimum of one (1) breastfeeding class.
- Attendance at a minimum of two (2) childbirth classes.
- Attendance at a minimum of two (2) births.
- Submission of one (1) position paper/essay surrounding the role of doulas in the birthing process.
- Completion of cultural competency training.
- Completion of a doula proficiency exam.
- Completion of HIPAA/client confidentiality training.

# Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Competencies

## Twenty Hours of Training in:

- Foundations on anatomy of pregnancy and childbirth
- Labor support techniques and nonmedical comfort measures
- Common medical interventions – risks, benefits, and decision-making
- Prenatal and postpartum education and support
- Lactation support, education and infant feeding
- Scope of practice

## Four Hours of Training in:

- Cultural awareness/humility and cross-cultural communication
- Health equity in medical field, especially reproductive health
- Person-centered and trauma-informed care
- Community-based knowledge and facilitating connection to resources

# State Medicaid Training/Certification Models

State	Requires State-Approved Training	Requires State-Recognized Certification	Core Competency Pathway	Work Experience Pathway
New York Pilot	No	No	Yes	No
<b>New York Medicaid Benefit</b>	<b>Tentatively no</b>	<b>Tentatively no</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
California	No	No	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	No	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	No
Rhode Island	No	Yes	Yes	No
Washington D.C.	Yes	Yes (future)	No	No

# Question & Answer Period

July 2023

# Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- You may continue to share input after today's event via email to [doulapilot@health.ny.gov](mailto: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:** Monday, July 17, 2023 from 11:00-1:00 PM

**Registration Link:** Will be sent via the list serve

**To be added to the list serve:** [doulapilot@health.ny.gov](mailto:doulapilot@health.ny.gov)

## Next Meeting Agenda:

- Follow-up to Proposed NYS Medicaid Doula Enrollment Pathways
- Proposed Visit Structure
- Discussion



# End Presentation

July 2023