

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: August 9, 2024

Subject: Ensuring Timely Prenatal and Postpartum Care

Summary: Information for Improving Timeliness of Prenatal Care and Postpartum Rates

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana encourages OB/GYNs and other providers to take steps to ensure that your patients, our members, are receiving timely prenatal and postpartum visits. This recommendation is based on the HEDIS guidelines for the Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC) measure, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive and timely care for pregnant and postpartum women. We can support and encourage healthy pregnancies, reduce maternal mortality, and improve neonatal outcomes by working together.

Timeliness of Prenatal Care

Timeliness of prenatal care is the percentage of deliveries that received a prenatal care visit in the first trimester, on or before the enrollment start date, or within 42 days of enrollment in the Plan. Healthy People 2030 aims to increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5% of the population.¹

Postpartum Care

Postpartum care is the percentage of deliveries that had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has released new guidelines calling for changes to improve postpartum care for women. They now encourage that postpartum care be an ongoing process rather than a one-time checkup and recommend that all new mothers:²

- Have contact with the health care provider within three weeks of giving birth.
- Get ongoing medical care throughout the postpartum period, as needed.
- Have a complete and full medical checkup no later than twelve weeks after giving birth.

HEDIS Tipsheets are available to offer guidance on providing and coding for quality prenatal and postpartum care. Visit our website, where tip sheets can be found under “Handbooks and Guides”:
<https://www.amerhealthcaritasla.com/provider/resources/index.aspx>.

Questions:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana’s Provider Services department at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

References:

¹March of Dimes, Prenatal Care, January 2024

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/data?reg=99&top=5&lev=0&slev=1> [Accessed April 26, 2024]

²March of Dimes, Your Postpartum Checkup, September 2023 <https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/postpartum/your-postpartum-checkups> [Accessed April 26, 2024]

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