

PROVIDER NOTICE

Provider Relations Department: 888-895-4998 (Option 4)

Enhanced Reimbursement for Priority Partners Maternal Health Providers Through MDH Programs: The First Step Is ePREP

Effective Dates: June 9, 2023 & January 1, 2024

Health Plans Affected: Priority Partners

Type of Change: Provider Reimbursement Process

Explanation of Change:

Johns Hopkins Health Plans would like to make our Priority Partners providers (OB-GYN, pediatric, family medicine, midwives, nurse practitioners, doulas) aware of maternal health programs from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) that offer additional reimbursement opportunities.

IMPORTANT: Both programs require active enrollment in ePREP, Maryland Medicaid's electronic **Provider Revalidation and Enrollment Portal (ePREP)**. Providers are responsible for updating their professional license information prior to license expiration in the ePREP portal. Active enrollment applies to providers (individuals and provider groups). For additional information and to complete your application, please visit health.maryland.gov/ePREP or call 844-4MD-PROV.

Centering Pregnancy Program:

Centering Pregnancy is an evidence-based group prenatal care model for low-risk pregnancies. Facilitators support a cohort of 8 to 10 individuals of similar gestational age through a curriculum of 10 90- to 120-minute interactive group perinatal care visits that largely consist of discussion sessions covering medical and non-medical aspects of pregnancy, including nutrition, common discomforts, stress management, labor and birth, breastfeeding and infant care.

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, a practice (OB-GYN, pediatric, family medicine, midwives, nurse practitioners, doulas) must be accredited or pending accreditation by the Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI) in addition to being licensed.

- Both the group and each individual rendering provider will need to submit supplemental applications in ePREP to add this new service.
- Groups must update their ePREP account to reflect their CHI licensed status. To update, a group should start a supplemental application in ePREP and attach their CHI approval letter attesting their status, as well as the [Group Centering Pregnancy Addendum](#).
 - Individual rendering providers will also need to submit an [Individual Centering Pregnancy Addendum](#) with the group's accreditation attached.
- The above steps will enable the group to add the code **99078** "Group educational services by physician" to up to 10 Centering Pregnancy perinatal visit claims for patients who are

enrolled in and receive prenatal care in the Centering Pregnancy program. This code will pay an additional \$50 per participant per visit for up to 10 group perinatal care visits, or \$500.

- Please see MDH Transmittals [PT30-23](#) and [PT61-23](#) and the [MDH Medicaid Centering Pregnancy Provider Information webpage](#) for more information.

Healthy Steps Program:

HealthySteps, a ZERO TO THREE program, is a pediatric primary care model that promotes positive parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers. Under the model, all children from birth to age 3 and their families are screened and placed into a tiered model of risk-stratified supports, including care coordination and on-site intervention. A HealthySteps Specialist, a child development expert, joins the pediatric primary care team to ensure universal screening and to provide successful interventions, referrals and follow-up to the whole family. The HealthySteps Specialist screens all children from birth to age 3 and their families to place them into the appropriate tier of services.

To be eligible for additional reimbursement, a group must be currently and actively meeting the HealthySteps National Office (ZERO TO THREE) fidelity requirements, or deemed as being on track to fidelity.

- Groups must update their ePREP account to reflect their ZERO TO THREE accreditation status.
 - To update, a group should initiate a supplemental application in ePREP and attach their ZERO TO THREE accreditation letter attesting their status, as well as the [HealthySteps Group Addendum](#).
 - Each rendering provider will also need to submit an [Individual Supplemental Addendum](#) with the group's accreditation attached.
- The above steps will allow the group to add the code **H0025** “Behavioral health prevention education service” to each pediatric E&M or well-child visit encounter that includes HealthySteps services and was provided in the clinic or outpatient setting. This code will pay an additional \$15 per participant per visit, up to age 4.
NOTE: While this is a H-code, this code should not be billed to the ASO.
- For more information on Healthy Steps, please visit the [MDH website](#) or refer to Transmittal [PT30-23](#).

Additional information about enrollment into these programs can be found at the [Maryland Medicaid Maternal Child Health Programs webpage](#) and in the latest [Professional Services Provider Manual](#).