



PROVIDER NOTICE

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

MDH's Healthy Babies Equity Act Now Effective for Non-citizen Pregnant Marylanders

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

Health Plans Affected: Priority Partners

Type of Change: New Program from Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

Explanation of Change:

The MDH's Medical Assistance Program provides comprehensive coverage to non-citizen pregnant Marylanders with income up to 250% of the federal poverty level who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Program, but for their immigration status, as well as their children up to the age of one year, as required by HB 1080—Healthy Babies Equity Act (Ch. 28 of the Acts of 2022). This program went into effect July 1, 2023.

The MDH estimates approximately 6,000 non-citizen pregnant Marylanders will be eligible for this benefit in the first year. Applicants will apply for coverage through the consumer portal on the [Maryland Health Connection*](#). The benefit will provide coverage during the pregnancy and four months of comprehensive coverage during the postpartum period. This postpartum period is defined as the date a pregnancy ends to the last day of the month in which the four-month period ends. Retroactive fee-for-service coverage will be available for up to three months, subject to the limitations outlined below.

The non-citizen pregnant individual (birthing parent) will be eligible for the same benefits package available to other pregnant individuals, including physical and behavioral health services, as well as dental and prescription drug coverage without copays. Participants will be enrolled in a managed care organization, such as Priority Partners, during the prenatal and postpartum periods. Carved-out benefits will be covered on a fee-for-service basis.

Individuals who currently qualify for emergency medical services due to pregnancy (X03 L) will be contacted by MDH to alert them to this new coverage opportunity. These individuals can apply for comprehensive benefits using the Maryland Health Connection consumer portal beginning July 1, 2023.

For more information, please refer to [Maryland Medicaid MCO Transmittal No. 175*](#).

*This link is from an external website that is not provided or maintained by or in any way affiliated with Johns Hopkins Health Plans. Please note Johns Hopkins Health Plans does not guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of any information on this external website.