

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**6/29/2021 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RHODE ISLAND  
MEDICAID STATE PLAN**

In accordance Rhode Island General Laws 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to make the following amendment to the Rhode Island State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act:

**Doula Services**

EOHHS requests public comments on the structure and contents of this proposed federal authority request to add coverage of doula services. EOHHS will be holding a virtual public meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 11:00am-12:00pm to gather feedback on the proposed structure of the Doula benefit and rates and encourages stakeholders and the public to participate. Please see below for log-in information to join.

Doula services will support pregnant individuals, improve birth outcomes, and support new mothers and families with cultural specific antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum services. Doula services will be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, at an amount not to exceed \$850 per pregnancy. Doula service providers will be reimbursed for up to three (3) prenatal visits, one (1) labor and delivery (regardless of duration of the birthing process), and three (3) postpartum visits, at the following rates:

- i. Prenatal visit: \$51.52 per visit
- ii. Labor and Delivery: \$502.27 per visit
- iii. Postpartum Visit: \$64.39 per visit

This change would result in an increase in annual expenditures of approximately \$388,000 all funds. The proposed effective date of this change is July 1, 2021.

EOHHS will be holding a virtual public meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 11:00am-12:00pm to gather feedback on the proposed structure of the Doula benefit and rates. Please use the following log in information to join.

**Log-in information for public meeting:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89912633069>**

**Meeting ID: 899 1263 3069**

**One tap mobile**

**+13126266799,,89912633069# US (Chicago)**

**+16465588656,,89912633069# US (New York)**

**Dial by your location**

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
888 788 0099 US Toll-free  
833 548 0276 US Toll-free  
833 548 0282 US Toll-free  
877 853 5247 US Toll-free

**Meeting ID: 899 1263 3069**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89912633069>**

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website ([www.eohhs.ri.gov](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov)) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-1501 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by July 29, 2021 to Bryan Law, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, or [Bryan.Law@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:Bryan.Law@ohhs.ri.gov) or via phone at (401) 462-1501.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted on the proposed State Plan Amendment if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

## Proposed State Plan Pages

### Coverage Description

#### aa. Doula Services.

##### 1. Scope of services: A doula may provide services to a pregnant individual such as:

- Services to support pregnant individuals, improve birth outcomes, and support new mothers and families with cultural specific antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum services, referrals and advocacy;
- Advocating for and supporting physiological birth, breastfeeding, and parenting for their client;
- Supporting the pregnancy, labor, and birth by providing emotional and physical support with traditional comfort measures and educational materials, as well as assistance during the transition to parenthood in the initial postpartum period;
- Empowering pregnant people and new mothers with evidence-based information to choose best practices for birth, breastfeeding, and infant care;
- Providing support to the laboring client until the birth of the baby;
- Referring clients to their health care provider for medical advice for care outside of the scope of doula scope of practice;
- Working as a member of the client's multidisciplinary team; and
- Offering evidence-based information on infant feeding, emotional and physical recovery from childbirth, and other issues related to the postpartum period.

##### 2. Benefits: A member shall be allowed to utilize doula services at any point during and after pregnancy with proper documentation of a positive pregnancy test result. This also includes at-home pregnancy screening. All visits will be documented and billed for reimbursement with the proper billing code as described in the provider manual.

- A member is allowed up to three prenatal visits. Prenatal visits may include screening, case management and home health aide/certified nursing assistant.
- Labor and Delivery shall be covered regardless of the duration of the birthing process. While labor and delivery of a live birth is the hopeful outcome, not all expectant mothers deliver a live birth. The postpartum period up to 12 months is the most critical time for a new mother whether a live birth occurs or not. Doula services pose an effective interdisciplinary solution for families during this timeframe. If a member's pregnancy does not result in a live birth, the allotted benefit amount remaining from prenatal and labor and delivery can be used towards postpartum and/or bereavement supports.
- A member is allowed up to three postpartum visits.

## Payment Description

### aa. Doula Services.

#### 1. Payment methodology:

- a. Payment is based on a fee schedule; and the specific fees are determined by the stage of pregnancy (prenatal, labor/delivery, or postpartum). The rates are accessible on the EOHHS website here: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/providers-partners/fee-schedules>. A doula may not receive more than \$850.00 per pregnancy. In order to bill each visit for the rate, the doula must have visited the member for at least 60 minutes.
- b. The rates are structured to capture all of the staff costs associated with providing doula services, including providing emotional and physical support with traditional comfort measures and educational materials, as well as assistance during the transition to parenthood in the initial postpartum period; education on pregnancy, labor, and birth; meetings with the member's interdisciplinary care team; screening; case management; postpartum and/or bereavement supports; telephone time; travel time; and time writing case notes.
- c. Payment does not include room and board.

#### 2. Provider Qualifications:

- a. To be eligible for reimbursement for doula services, a provider must meet the following qualifications:
  - i. Be certified as a doula by the Rhode Island Certification Board. Evidence of a doula training certificate or an authentic (must be on the doula training organization's letterhead and signed by an authorized representative), original, signed and dated letter from a doula training organization verifying that the doula has attended and completed its training or curriculum must be provided. Any doula training program is accepted as long as it meets the core competency requirements listed below and include, but are not limited to, the International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA), the Doulas of North America (DONA), ToLabor, Birthworks, the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPP), Childbirth International, the International Center for Traditional Childbearing, and Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.
  - ii. Attest to being trained in the following competencies through one program or a combination of programs, the result of which is meeting all doula core competency requirements outlined below:
    1. An education that includes any combination of childbirth education, birth doula training, antepartum doula training, and postpartum doula training;
    2. Attendance at a minimum of one breastfeeding class or holding a valid lactation certification;
    3. Attendance at a minimum of one childbirth class or valid childbirth education certification;
    4. Completion of cultural competency training;
    5. Completion of HIPAA / client confidentiality training;

6. Completion of CPR certification for children and adults; and

7. Completion of SafeServ certification for meal preparation.

- b. A doula who can provide alternative and sufficient documentation of training and practice as a doula for a period of at least six (6) months prior to July 1, 2021 shall not be required to provide the certificate or letter as required above until December 31, 2022, and shall have six (6) months to complete the training requirements.
- c. Supervision: No insurer or hospital or medical service corporation may require supervision, signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement.

3. Rate Increases:

EOHHS does not increase rates based on a set inflation factor on a pre-determined basis.

4. Limitations:

- a. There are no supervision requirements for this service.
- b. A doula shall not receive reimbursement for more than three (3) prenatal visits, one (1) labor and delivery visit, and three (3) postpartum visits per pregnancy, regardless of the number of infants involved. There are no prior authorization requirements for the three (3) prenatal visits, one (1) labor and delivery visit, and three (3) postpartum visits.
- c. If a member's pregnancy does not result in a live birth, or if the member did not receive the full allotment of three (3) prenatal visits and/or one (1) labor and delivery visit, the allotted benefit amount remaining from prenatal and labor and delivery can be used towards postpartum and/or bereavement supports, as long as the total amount billed for the pregnancy does not exceed \$850.

5. Date of Effective Rates:

EOHHS' rates were set as of July 1, 2021 and are effective for services on or after that date.