

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

**9/27/2021 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. The original public notice for this proposed amendment was posted on June 29, 2021.

**Doula Services**

On June 29, 2021, EOHHS notified the public of its intent to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to cover Doula services. After reviewing public comments, EOHHS has revised the proposed Doula rates and State Plan pages within the proposed SPA. The information contained within this revised public notice is EOHHS' final submission to CMS, reflective of public comments.

Doula services will support pregnant individuals, improve birth outcomes, and support new mothers and families with culturally specific antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum services. Doula services will be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, at an amount not to exceed \$1500.00 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: \$100.00 per visit
- ii. Labor and Delivery: \$900.00 per visit
- iii. Postpartum Visit: \$100.00 per visit

This change would result in an increase in annual expenditures of approximately \$684,000 in all funds. The proposed effective date is July 1, 2021.

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 (401-462-6348 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by October 27, 2021 to Bryan Law, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, via email at [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 42-35-2.8, 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 ten (10) 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 \$1500.00 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.
- 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 \$1500.00.

5. Date of Effective Rates:

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