

ISSUE DATE January 10, 2024	EFFECTIVE DATE February 1, 2024	NUMBER 13-24-01
SUBJECT Doula Enrollment in the Medical Assistance Program		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers that, effective February 1, 2024, doulas may enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program, which will enable MA managed care organizations (MCOs) to enter into network agreements with doulas. This bulletin also provides information on provider enrollment.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to doulas seeking to enroll in the MA Program to render services under the MA managed care delivery system. Questions pertaining to payment for services rendered under the MA managed care delivery system should be directed to the appropriate MCO.

BACKGROUND:

The MA Program provides comprehensive maternity care services for eligible MA beneficiaries during pregnancy and through the postpartum period. In the managed care delivery system, the MCOs utilize maternity care teams to provide comprehensive maternity care services. These maternity care teams may include doulas. Doulas may also be part of other maternal care services provided by the MCOs.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

Doulas are non-medical, trained professionals who provide continuous emotional, physical, and informational support and guidance during the perinatal period with the goal of improving health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum individuals and their infants.

DISCUSSION:

An MCO may pay for doula services other than as part of a maternity care team or other maternal care service. However, in accordance with federal Medicaid requirements at 42 CFR §§ 438.602(b) and 438.608(b), an MCO network provider must be enrolled in the MA Program. To enable MCOs to enter into network participation agreements with doulas, the Department of Human Services (Department) will start enrolling doulas as MA providers. Certification from the Pennsylvania Certification Board as a Certified Perinatal Doula is required for doulas to enroll in the MA Program. Information on this certification can be found on the Pennsylvania Certification Board website at the following link: <https://www.pacertboard.org/doula>.

Doulas who are contracted or employed by an MCO network provider to provide services as part of maternity care team or as part of another maternal health service, with payment going to the enrolled provider, may continue this arrangement and do not need to be enrolled in the MA Program.

Doulas are not currently identified as a distinct provider in Pennsylvania's Medicaid State Plan and therefore enrollment in the MA Program does not authorize them to bill for services under the Fee-for-Service delivery system. Doulas may continue to be utilized by providers in the Healthy Beginning Plus program, and these doulas do not need to be enrolled in the MA Program.

PROCEDURE:

Effective February 1, 2024, the Department will enroll doulas certified by the Pennsylvania Certification Board as a Certified Perinatal Doula. Certified Doulas will be enrolled as a Provider Type 13, which is defined as "Non-Traditional Provider," Specialty Code 130, to render services in the managed care delivery system with a doula specialty as follows:

Provider Type	Specialty Code	Specialty Code Description
13	130	Certified Doula

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application may be viewed by accessing the Enrollment Information page on the Department's website at the following link: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.

A doula may submit an online provider enrollment application using the Department's secure web portal following the instructions in the application. For questions about enrollment, providers can contact Provider Enrollment at 1-800-537-8862 option 2, then option 4.