

New doula care benefit

Summary of update: Effective January 1, 2021, Amerigroup Community Care provides pregnant members with the option to receive supportive care throughout pregnancy and during the postpartum period from a participating certified doula.

All pregnant, birthing and postpartum individuals are eligible for doula care and can benefit from the physical, emotional and informational support doulas provide during the perinatal period. Doula care is available to members regardless of their medical complexity.

Doula care is associated with better birth outcomes, including reductions in cesarean section rates. Doulas provide culturally competent care that supports the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of our members. Doulas are encouraged to direct members to community-based services that can improve health outcomes.

Doula services are available starting in the prenatal period and continue up to 180 days postpartum and is contingent upon the member retaining Medicaid eligibility. Doula services can be provided in the community, in clinicians' offices (if a doula is accompanying the member to a clinician's visit) or in the hospital. While prior authorization is not required, services must be recommended by a licensed practitioner (such as a physician, midwife, nurse or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts), and the doula provider must secure and maintain a record of the clinician's recommendation for each member served prior to the initiation of care.

Certified doula participation requirements:

- Doulas must be certified by a training program approved by the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) and enroll as a Medicaid fee-for-service provider.
 - Visit www.njmmis.com to request a provider enrollment application or call **1-800-776-6334** for assistance.
- Doulas must be credentialed and contracted by Amerigroup.
 - Participating clinician providers that employ a doula should contact their Network Management representative.
 - Other doulas should email NJDoulaNetwork@anthem.com.