

MEDICAID MINUTE

from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans

Welcome to Medicaid Minute from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans. Every month you can expect our newsletter to provide you with the most up to date information about the work Managed Care Organizations are doing within the Medicaid Program and for our state. We want to serve as a resource for your Medicaid questions.

Advancing Maternal Services Among Medicaid Members

The Medicaid managed care organizations provide coverage to millions of pregnant mothers. However, the most recent healthcare trends raise concern among low income mothers of color and/or living in rural areas. The increased risk of giving birth prematurely, infants with low birth weight and maternal death has caught the attention of the MCOs and policymakers.

In an article published by the [Modern Medicaid Alliance \(MMA\)](#), the MCOs are strengthening their coordination of care to improve the mothers chance of a healthy pregnancy by:

- connecting pregnant women with special care nurses to ensure the mother and baby get the care they need
- offering programs that provide transportation or personalized birthing plans, etc.
- coordinating care for high risk pregnancies

Currently, extending postpartum care for mothers is legislation many MCOs are looking in to. West Virginia is one of thirteen states that would like to expand their postpartum coverage from 6 months to 12 months. Depression, pain or anxiety are common for women to experience after giving birth, and even greater among low income mothers. This is just one step the MCOs of WV are taking to improve the health outcomes of their mothers and youngest members.

WV Medicaid Highlights*

Total enrollment in WV Medicaid:
597,656 members
MCO Total Enrollment:
485,182 members
SSI Enrollment:
40,246 (8%)
Expansion Enrollment:
200,274 (41%)
TANF Enrollment:
226,767 (47%)
CHIP Enrollment:
17,895 (4%)

* Data Source: DHHR report 10-1-21

Good News Stories



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