

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**General Provider Transmittal No. 88**  
**June 10, 2022**

TO: All Medicaid Providers

FROM: Tricia Roddy, Deputy Director  
Maryland Medicaid  
Molly Marra, Director  
Medicaid Provider Services

RE: Summer 2022 General Provider Updates

**Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.**

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**Certification for Abortion Form Updates**

In accordance with the requirements of *HB 937 (Ch. 56 of the 2022 Acts) Abortion Care Access Act*, the Maryland Department of Health has updated the Certification for Abortion (Form 521) and related information to reflect changes to the provider types permitted to perform abortions. To access the updated form, visit <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Pages/Provider-Information.aspx>.

**Clarification on Dialysis Services in the Emergency Department of Hospitals**

Maryland Medicaid has resumed monitoring of hospital claims to ensure that routine dialysis is not being provided in a hospital setting, in lieu of a free-standing dialysis facility. Hospitals that received Medicaid reimbursement for routine, non-emergent dialysis services in the emergency department may be subject to the recoupment of funds.

**Doulas and Home Visiting Services**

Effective February 21, 2022, Maryland Medicaid will provide coverage for doula/birth worker services to Medicaid beneficiaries. A doula, or birth worker, is a trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to birthing parents before, during, and after birth. Certified doulas serving Maryland Medicaid members will provide person-centered, culturally-competent care that supports the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of members while adhering to evidence-based best practices. Doulas provide three kinds of services: prenatal visits, attendance at labor and delivery, and postpartum visits. Only a doula who meets Maryland Medicaid's certification and participation requirements may enroll with Medicaid to administer doula services. See Provider Transmittal (PT) [37-22](#) for more information, as well as program guidance and frequently asked questions on our webpage:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/medicaid-mch-initiatives/Pages/DoulaProviderinformation.aspx>.

Effective January 13, 2022, Maryland Medicaid is expanding coverage for evidence-based home visiting services to all Medicaid beneficiaries. Home visitors associated with one of two evidence-based models, Healthy Families America (HFA) or Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), will provide supportive services for pregnant individuals during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as support for parents and children during the postpartum period and up to two to three years of age, depending on the model. HVS providers deliver three kinds of supportive services: prenatal home visits, postpartum home visits, and infant home visits. Home visitors have experience in improving health outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Only HFA accredited and NFP programs meeting fidelity status may enroll with Medicaid to administer home visiting services. See PT [35-22](#) for more information, as well as program guidance and frequently asked questions on our webpage: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/medicaid-mch-initiatives/Pages/Home-Visiting-Services-Program-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

### **Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program Expansion**

Effective October 1, 2022, the eligibility criteria for the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program will be expanded. Income limits for program applicants, previously set at 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL), will be eliminated. An applicant's income or their spouse's income will not be considered at any time during the eligibility process. The existing asset limits (\$10,000 for an individual, \$15,000 for a couple) will only be considered at the initial eligibility assessment. At future renewals, assets will not be considered even if the person marries after the initial eligibility assessment. When determining premium amounts, income streams for both the eligible individual and such person's spouse will be considered. Certain assets, including 401(k), 403(b), pension plans, and Keogh plans, will continue to be excluded from consideration for eligibility and premiums.

### **Medicaid State Plan**

The Maryland Medicaid state plan is now publicly available on the Department's web site. A Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan is an agreement between a state and the Federal government detailing how the state administers its Medicaid and CHIP programs. It gives an assurance that a state will abide by federal rules and may claim federal matching funds for its program activities. The Maryland Medicaid State Plan shows groups covered, covered services, methods for provider reimbursement and the administrative activities in use in the state. For more information, visit <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Pages/Maryland-Medicaid-State-Plan-.aspx>.

### **Medical Record Reviews for PERM**

As federally required, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is conducting a review of Maryland Medicaid payments from State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) as part of the federal Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program. PERM includes a Medical Record Review (MRR) of Medicaid-reimbursed services to determine that services were performed, documented, and reimbursed in compliance with state and federal policy.

CMS's PERM Review Contractor (RC) will begin its medical review for the RY 2023 PERM Review (SFY 2022) in the next few weeks. Medicaid providers may receive a PERM Medical Record Request (MRR) letter asking for documentation of services furnished to Medicaid beneficiaries. PERM selects claims for review via random sampling. For an MRR letter template [click here](#).

If a provider does not respond to a PERM medical record request, or does not include all required documentation pertinent to the reimbursed service, PERM auditors will cite the payment as improper. Medicaid may recoup such payments from providers, and may suspend providers who do not respond to multiple document requests.

Providers should direct questions about PERM MRR letters to the PERM RC, as instructed on the MRR letter. The letter will also contain contact information for a state PERM representative. If you received an MRR letter, you may contact the state PERM representative designated on the letter to discuss the request with a Maryland Medicaid state representative. For an overview of the PERM program, please review the [PERM Overview for Providers Webinar](#).

For additional information, please visit the CMS PERM website at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicaid-and-CHIP-Compliance/PERM/Providers>.

### **Opioid Prescribing and Overdose Prevention Education**

The Maryland Department of Health, along with local health departments, are offering an interactive, personalized educational opportunity to support critical work on opioid prescribing and overdose prevention. This free, evidence-based service supports clinical decision-making needs. If you are a primary care provider or family medicine provider, schedule a visit & earn CME credits. Visit [MarylandPDMP.org](http://MarylandPDMP.org) to learn more and sign up for an Academic Detailing session.

### **Ordering and Referring Claims Edits**

Effective for dates of services beginning September 1, 2022, Maryland Medicaid will implement billing requirements to comply with federal regulations regarding Ordering, Referring, and Prescribing (ORP) practitioners. Under section 6401 of the Affordable Care Act and Code of Federal Regulations section 42 CFR § 455.410(b), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires ORP practitioners to “be enrolled as participating providers” with the state Medicaid agency for their ordered, referred, and prescribed services to be reimbursable. To comply with the federal rule, **Maryland Medicaid will require that all claims from certain provider types include the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of an actively enrolled individual practitioner.** These provider types will include: Labs, Home Health Aide/Private Duty Nursing, Portable X-Ray, Durable Medical Equipment/Disposable Medical Supply Providers, and Diagnostic Services.

Medicaid will deny any claims from these provider types that do not include a referring practitioner NPI. The NPI must belong to an actively enrolled Maryland Medicaid individual practitioner, and the NPI cannot be a dummy or placeholder NPI. Claims will not be reimbursable if the referring practitioner NPI belongs to a group or facility.

Maryland Medicaid strongly encourages providers to prepare for this change by updating their billing practices to include an active ORP practitioner NPI on claims prior to these edits taking place. Providers can verify the ORP practitioner's enrollment status using the department's [Provider Verification System \(PVS\)](#). For instructions on verifying provider enrollment status, please visit [health.maryland.gov/providerinfo](http://health.maryland.gov/providerinfo).

To enroll ORP practitioners, please submit an application through Maryland Medicaid's electronic Provider Revalidation and Enrollment Portal (ePREP) by visiting [ePREP.health.maryland.gov](http://ePREP.health.maryland.gov). Please visit [health.maryland.gov/eprep](http://health.maryland.gov/eprep) for enrollment instructions or contact the ePREP call center at (844)-463-7768.

### **Postpartum Coverage Expansion**

Effective April 1, 2022, Medicaid-eligible pregnant individuals are able to access full coverage Medicaid benefits for the duration of pregnancy and the extended 12-month postpartum period regardless of any changes in income or household size. As established under COMAR 10.09.24.02, the 12-month postpartum coverage period begins on the last day of the pregnancy and ends on the last day of the 12th month.

Postpartum care services can include follow-up care for delivery complications, vital care for the management of chronic conditions, family planning, and mental health care for the management of common conditions like postpartum depression. The 12-month postpartum extension also applies to dental benefits through Maryland Healthy Smiles.

For more information about Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals, visit <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/healthchoice>.

### **Professional Licensing Board Interfaces**

Maryland Medicaid has established interfaces between MMIS and the following professional licensing boards: Physicians and Physicians Assistants, Social Workers, Certified Counselors, Pharmacy and Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Dental, and Nursing Providers. For our provider population, this means any Maryland provider licensed by one of these licensing boards is only required to update their professional licenses with the respective Maryland licensing board. They no longer need to upload an updated license and submit a supplemental application via ePREP. This includes physicians, physicians assistants, social workers, certified counselors, pharmacies, pharmacists, podiatrists, dentists, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurse psychotherapists.

Please note that this initiative only applies to Maryland licensed providers that are on file as part of an active Maryland Medicaid Provider Account. The interface does not include out of state licensed providers. Providers enrolled with an out of state license will need to continue to update their licenses via supplemental applications submitted in ePREP.

### **Updating Health Benefits Exchange when Reporting Change of Address**

In March 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) stopped Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHP) from disenrolling participants who lost eligibility

during the federal public health emergency (PHE). At the end of the PHE, all Medicaid and MCHP enrollees will need to renew their Medicaid coverage. They will receive a notice from Maryland Health Connection or the Department of Human Services (DHS) during the next 12 months. If they fail to respond, their Medicaid coverage will end.

The Department asks providers to encourage their patients to make sure their contact information is up to date so they do not miss any important updates and information on how to renew their coverage after the PHE ends. Medicaid participants can log into [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](https://MarylandHealthConnection.gov) to update their account today.

Marylanders who have Medicaid or MCHP health coverage can update their contact information three ways: online, by phone, or in person.

1. To update contact information online, log in to your account at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](https://MarylandHealthConnection.gov) and update your address, phone number and email.
2. You can also call Maryland Health Connection at 855-642-8572. Help is available in more than 200 languages. Deaf and hard of hearing use Relay service.
3. You can also call or visit your local Department of Social Services or your local health department.