

HEALTH RESOURCES DIVISION

NP 11010 – Extend Postpartum Coverage to 12 months

Summary:

This new proposal is to extend the coverage of postpartum women enrolled in Montana's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from 60 days to 12 months. It is estimated that this change will provide extended postpartum coverage to 1,027 women in FY24 and 1,037 women in FY25. Those covered under the 12-month postpartum coverage are eligible for the full Medicaid/CHIP benefits.

Background:

Sections 9812 and 9822 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) give states a new option to provide 12 months of extended postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The newly extended postpartum coverage option offers states an opportunity to provide care that can reduce pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity and improve continuity of care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac conditions, substance use disorder, and depression.

Under current law, pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries are eligible through the end of the month in which the 60-day period, beginning on the last day of pregnancy, ends (referred to as the “60-day postpartum period”). Most of the severe complications of pregnancy and childbirth arise after the 60-day mark. The CDC reports that 1/3 of maternal deaths happen in the first year following pregnancy. According to data from America’s Health Rankings, Montana ranked within the top 15 states with the highest maternal mortality rates in the US at 22.6 deaths per 100,000 live births from 2016-2020. Nearly one half of Montana’s births are covered by Medicaid, according to Montana DPHHS Medicaid Births Dashboard.

Identifying the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity is complex, and coverage is only one factor, but research strongly indicates that access to health care throughout a woman’s reproductive years is essential for prevention, early detection, and treatment of some of the conditions that place women at higher risk for pregnancy-related complications. Extending coverage for Montana Medicaid and CHIP members to cover the full 12-month postpartum period will provide health care access during the most vulnerable and important time for new moms and babies and will improve the health and wellbeing of families.

Budget Request:

This new proposal requests \$2,814,063 in general funds and \$6,404,305 in federal funds for the 2025 biennium. This is the cost in benefits to provide extended postpartum coverage to 1,027 women in FY24 and 1,037 women in FY25

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2024	\$1,379,240	\$0	\$3,138,905	\$4,518,145
FY 2025	\$1,434,822	\$0	\$3,265,400	\$4,700,222
Biennium Total	\$2,814,062	\$0	\$6,404,305	\$9,218,367