

New sections

BIRTH DOULA SERVICES

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182-533-0610 Birth doula services—Purpose.

Sections 182-533-0610 through 182-533-0680 establish the medicaid agency's provider and documentation requirements and coverage and payment rules for birth doula services when provided to eligible Apple Health clients. Birth doula services improve and promote healthy pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and infant outcomes. A birth doula delivers services to eligible pregnant and post-pregnant people, their infants, and their families.

182-533-0620 Birth doula services—Definitions.

The following definitions and those found in chapter [182-500](#) WAC apply to birth doula services.

"Agency" - See WAC [182-500-0010](#).

"Birth doula" -A nonmedical support person certified under chapter [246-835](#) WAC and trained to provide physical, emotional, and informational support to birthing persons, their infants, and their families.

"Birth doula services" - Preventive services, as defined by 42 CFR 440.130(c), provided by a birth doula to pregnant and post-pregnant people, their infants, and their families. Services include advocating for and supporting the birthing person and their family to self-advocate by helping them to know their rights and make informed decisions.

"Care coordination" - Collaboration and communication between the client's birth doula provider and other medical or health and social services providers, including Indian Health Care Providers, or both,

to partner with and address the individual client's and family's needs.

"Culturally congruent care" - The care and respect towards families to uphold their cultural practices around birth as the duty of the doula regardless of their identity, as well as assisting families in accessing doulas from the same background and community as them.

"Department of health (DOH)" - The state agency that works with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington state and which certifies the birth doula profession under chapter 246-835 WAC.

"In person" - The client and the provider are face-to-face in the same location.

"Medicaid agency" - See WAC [182-500-0070](#).

"Postpartum period" - The period lasting until the end of the 12th month after the pregnancy ends.

"Washington apple health" - See WAC 182-500-0120.



182-533-0630 Birth doula services—Client eligibility.

To receive birth doula services, a client must:

- (1) Be eligible for one of the Washington apple health programs listed in the table in WAC 182-501-0060; and
- (2) Be within the following eligibility periods:
 - (a) During pregnancy;
 - (b) Birth, inclusive of any end of pregnancy outcome; or
 - (c) The postpartum period as defined in WAC 182-533-0620.

182-533-0640 Birth doula services—Provider requirements.

To be eligible to provide birth doula services to Washington Apple Health clients, a birth doula must:

- (1) Be 18 years of age or older;
- (2) Be a resident of the state of Washington or a bordering city as specified in WAC 182-501-0175;
- (3) Possess current certification as a birth doula with the Washington state department of health under Chapter 246-835 WAC;
- (4) Be enrolled as an eligible birth doula provider with the medicaid agency (see WAC [182-502-0010](#));
- (5) Meet the requirements in this chapter, chapter [182-502](#) WAC, and the billing and documentation requirements found in the agency's current birth doula services billing guide;
- (6) Meet the standards required by state and federal laws governing the privacy and security of personally identifying information;

(7) Notify the client's prenatal clinical care provider when the birth doula initiates services with the client;

(8) Initiate and participate in care coordination activities throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period with the client's prenatal clinical care provider and maternity support services (MSS) provider; and

(9) Ensure that culturally congruent care is provided to the client and client's family.

182-533-0650 Birth doula services—Documentation requirements.

Providers must fulfill the documentation requirements found in WAC [182-502-0020](#) and the medicaid agency's current birth doula services billing guide, including but not limited to, documenting in the clients health record:

- (1) The date and time/duration of services and information substantiating the time/duration of services; and
- (2) The nature of the care and service(s) provided.

182-533-0660 Birth doula services—Covered services.

(1) To be covered, birth doula services must be preventive in nature according to 42 CFR 440.130(c).

(2) The medicaid agency covers the following birth doula services:

(a) Physical, emotional, and informational support to pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people;

(b) Prenatal and postpartum support;

(c) Continuous labor and delivery support; and

(d) One enhanced prenatal intake and one enhanced post-partum visit, per pregnancy.

(3) The agency determines the maximum number of units of services allowed per client when directed by the legislature to achieve targeted expenditure levels for payment of birth doula services for any specific biennium. The maximum number of units allowed per client is published in the agency's current birth doula services billing guide.

(4) The agency evaluates requests for authorization of covered services that exceed limitations on a case-by-case basis in accordance with WAC [182-501-0169](#).

(5) For birth doula services not allowed via telemedicine, see WAC 182-533-0680.

182-533-0670 Birth doula services—Payment.

(1) The medicaid agency pays for the birth doula services described in WAC 182-533-0660 when they are:

- (a) Provided to a client during a face-to-face encounter, including audio-visual telemedicine (see WAC 182-533-0680);
- (b) Provided and billed according to the agency's current birth doula services billing guide; and
- (e) Documented in the client's health record or chart per WAC 182-533-0650.

(2) For clients enrolled in managed care or fee-for-service who are eligible for birth doula services, the agency pays for covered birth doula services through fee-for-service (FFS) using the agency's published fee schedule.

(3) The agency does not pay for:

- (a) Birth doula services provided in a group/class environment; and
- (b) Birth doula travel time and mileage.

182-533-0680 Birth doula services—Telemedicine.

The agency pays for birth doula services provided via telemedicine according to WAC 182-501-0300 and the limitations in this section.

(1) The agency pays for birth doula services provided via telemedicine only when:

- (a) The enhanced prenatal intake has been provided in person; and
- (b) The servicing provider for the telemedicine service uses the same billing provider's national provider identifier (NPI) used to bill for the in-person enhanced prenatal intake visit.

(2) The client must choose to have birth doula services provided via telemedicine. The client's choice must be documented in the client's health care record.

(3) The agency does not pay for the following birth doula services provided via telemedicine:

- (a) The enhanced prenatal intake;
- (b) Labor and delivery support; and
- (c) The enhanced postpartum visit.

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