



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

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MCO Transmittal No. 162

Physician Transmittal No. 156

Nurse Practitioner Transmittal No. 27

Obstetrician Transmittal No. 5

December 16, 2022

To: Managed Care Organizations
OBGYN, Pediatric, and Family Medicine Physicians
OBGYN, Pediatric, and Family Medicine Nurse Practitioners
Nurse Midwives

From: Tricia Roddy, Deputy Medicaid Director
Office of HealthCare Financing

Re: Coverage of CenteringPregnancy and HealthySteps Services

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

Effective January 1, 2023, Maryland Medicaid will provide additional reimbursement to recognized practices for CenteringPregnancy and HealthySteps services. This transmittal details how providers can become eligible to receive this reimbursement, and how to bill for it.

CenteringPregnancy

CenteringPregnancy is an evidence-based group prenatal care model for low-risk pregnancies. Facilitators support a cohort of eight to ten individuals of similar gestational age through a curriculum of ten 90- to 120-minute interactive group perinatal care visits that largely consist of discussion sessions covering medical and non-medical aspects of pregnancy, including nutrition, common discomforts, stress management, labor and birth, breastfeeding, and infant care.

To be eligible for additional reimbursement, a practice (enrolled as a group practice type) must be licensed by the Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI). Both the group and each rendering provider will need to submit supplemental applications in ePREP to add this new service. Groups must update their ePREP account to reflect their CHI licensed status. To update, a group should initiate a supplemental application in ePREP and attach their CHI approval letter attesting their status, as well as the CenteringPregnancy Addendum. Each rendering provider will also need to submit a supplemental addendum with the group's accreditation attached. This will enable the group to add the code 99078 'group educational services by physician' to up to ten CenteringPregnancy perinatal visit claims for patients who are enrolled in and receive perinatal

care in the CenteringPregnancy program. This code will pay an additional \$50 per participant per visit, for up to ten group perinatal care visits.

HealthySteps

HealthySteps, a ZERO TO THREE program, is a pediatric primary care model that promotes positive parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers. Under the model, all children ages zero to three and their families are screened and placed into a tiered model of risk-stratified supports, including care coordination and on-site intervention. A HealthySteps Specialist, a child development expert, joins the pediatric primary care team to ensure universal screening, provide successful interventions, referrals and follow-up to the whole family. The HealthySteps Specialist screens all children ages zero to three and their families to place them into the appropriate tier of services.

To be eligible for additional reimbursement, a group must be currently and actively meeting the HealthySteps National Office (ZERO TO THREE) fidelity requirements, or deemed as on track to fidelity. Both the group and each rendering provider will need to submit supplemental applications in ePREP to add this new service. Groups must update their ePREP account to reflect their ZERO TO THREE accreditation status. To update, a group should initiate a supplemental application in ePREP and attach their ZERO TO THREE accreditation letter attesting their status, as well as the HealthySteps addendum. Each rendering provider will also need to submit a supplemental addendum with the group's accreditation attached. This will allow the group to add the code H0025 '*Behavioral health prevention education service*' to each pediatric E&M or well-child visit encounter that includes HealthySteps services and was provided in the clinic or outpatient setting. This code will pay an additional \$15 per participant per visit, up to age four. Note that while this is a H-code, this code should not be billed to the ASO.

For more information about enrollment into these programs, please refer to the Maryland Medicaid Maternal Child Health Programs webpage at <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/medicaid-mch-initiatives/Pages/Home.aspx>, and the latest Professional Services Provider Manual at <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pages/provider-information.aspx>.

Please direct questions regarding CenteringPregnancy or HealthySteps or provider qualifications at mdh.medicaidmch@maryland.gov.