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Full-year healthcare coverage begins for Medicaid-eligible women postpartum
Extended coverage expected to save lives and strengthen healthy starts for moms and babies

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio Department of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran today announced the department will begin offering eligible pregnant women a full year of healthcare coverage postpartum beginning April 1. The extended period aligns the mom’s coverage with that of her infant, ensuring both have continuous, uninterrupted access to care.

“More than half of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the 12-month postpartum period, many of which are preventable,” said Corcoran. “Women who have recently given birth have health needs that continue for a full year, and high-risk pregnancy-related complications such as preeclampsia, blood clots, and heart problems may not appear until months after delivery.”

Additionally, because the health of the infant is inextricably linked with that of the mother, improving outcomes for the mother also improves the health of the child. Ongoing access to care post-delivery enables lactation support and assistance with family transitions. It also provides an opportunity to comprehensively evaluate the mother’s wellbeing and gauge how she’s adapting to caring for her newborn and herself during the critical first year together.

The extended postpartum coverage goes beyond the physical recovery from childbirth. It includes behavioral healthcare such as postpartum depression and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, as well as family planning, and chronic disease management for diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac conditions that predated the pregnancy.

This policy was included in H.B. 110, the state budget bill passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine. It gives Ohio an opportunity to provide care that can reduce pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity.

The extended coverage, as it is currently authorized, will be available to Medicaid-eligible new moms for a five-year period, through April 2027.

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