



Aetna Better Health of Texas PROVIDER NOTIFICATION

12-Month Postpartum Eligibility Extension for Medicaid and CHIP Pregnant Members

Background:

As part of House Bill 12 (H.B. 12), 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) extended postpartum Medicaid coverage from two to 12 months for eligible women, effective March 1, 2024.

Effective March 1, 2024, HHSC is also providing 12 months of postpartum Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage. The 12 months of postpartum coverage begins the month after a pregnancy has ended.

Key Details:

Eligibility

Effective March 1, 2024, eligible recipients include:

- Medicaid or CHIP recipients who are pregnant or become pregnant.
 - CHIP Perinatal (CHIP-P) recipients are not eligible for 12 months of postpartum coverage. They will continue to receive CHIP-P coverage through the end of the month when their pregnancy ends and two postpartum care visits.
- Medicaid or CHIP recipients who were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP while pregnant, are no longer pregnant, but are still within their 12-month postpartum period and remain Texas residents.
 - Women who transitioned from Medicaid or CHIP to Healthy Texas Women (HTW)

after their pregnancy ended and who are within their 12-month postpartum period will be reinstated to full coverage Medicaid or CHIP.

- Women who received services while pregnant in Texas that would have been covered by Medicaid, but who apply for Medicaid after their pregnancy ends. Medicaid applicants with unpaid medical bills can apply for coverage for up to three months prior to their application month. This does not apply to CHIP applicants.

Pregnant Medicaid and CHIP recipients will continue to receive postpartum coverage in their existing type program (TP)/type of assistance (TA) and risk group. HHSC is not creating new TPs/TAs or risk groups to implement 12-month postpartum coverage. Therefore, reinstated members will return to their previous TP/TA and risk group for the remainder of their 12-month postpartum coverage period. For example: Most members will remain in Pregnant Women's Medicaid under TP 40 and CHIP under TA 84.

Coverage

Medicaid and CHIP recipients do not need to apply to have their coverage extended.

Effective March 1, 2024, coverage will be reinstated for the remainder of the 12-month postpartum period for women who are not current Medicaid or CHIP recipients but were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP in Texas while pregnant and are still within their 12-month postpartum period (if they are still Texas residents). They will get a notice by mail or through their Your Texas Benefits account.

The full array of Medicaid or CHIP covered services remain available in the 12-month postpartum period, including, but not limited to:

- Regular checkups with the doctor.
- Prescription drugs and vaccines.

- Hospital care and services.
- X-rays and lab tests.
- Vision and hearing care.
- Access to medical specialists and mental health care.
- Treatment of special health needs and pre-existing conditions.
- As noted above, members will remain or return to their pregnancy related TP/TA and retain access to all covered medically necessary Medicaid or CHIP services based on that coverage.

Exceptions to Eligibility

Eligible Medicaid and CHIP recipients will receive extended coverage through their postpartum period regardless of any change in circumstances, unless they:

- Voluntarily withdraw;
- Move out of state;
- Die; or
- Are determined to be ineligible because of fraud, abuse, or perjury.

How will those who are eligible for coverage for the remainder of the 12-month postpartum period and their MCO be notified?

A notice will be sent in the mail or through a client’s Your Texas Benefits account (if they have chosen to receive notices electronically). Medicaid and CHIP recipients should ensure their mailing address and contact information are up to date.

New and reinstated members will appear on the MCO daily file. In most cases, reinstated members will be enrolled with their previous MCO.

Will a new Medicaid or CHIP MCO Member ID card need to be issued for 12-month postpartum coverage?

If a member is currently receiving Medicaid or CHIP services, the member will not receive a new Medicaid or CHIP MCO Member ID card for the 12-month postpartum coverage period.

If a member previously received Medicaid or CHIP services that are being reinstated or is newly applying for coverage, they will receive a new Medicaid or CHIP MCO Member ID card.

Will CHIP members who are eligible for 12-month postpartum coverage, need to pay another enrollment fee to get the extended coverage?

CHIP members will not need to pay another enrollment fee to get 12-month postpartum coverage.

CHIP

Bexar area

1-866-818-0959 (TTY: 711)

Tarrant area

1-800-245-5380 (TTY: 711)

STAR (Medicaid)

Bexar area

1-800-248-7767 (TTY: 711)

Tarrant area

1-800-306-8612 (TTY: 711)

STAR Kids

Dallas and Tarrant areas

1-844-787-5437 (TTY: 711)

Thank you for your valued partnership in caring for our Aetna Better Health Members.

Sincerely,

Provider Services and Chief Medical Officer
Aetna Better Health of Texas