

# New York State Medicaid Benefit for Doula Services

## What is a Doula?

- A doula provides physical, emotional, educational, and non-medical support for pregnant and postpartum persons before, during, and after childbirth or end of pregnancy.
- Doula support should not replace medical care with a licensed provider.

## What Services Does a Doula Provide?

Doula services may include:

- Development of a birth plan and continuous labor support;
- Patient-centered advocacy, and physical, emotional and nonmedical support;
- Education, support, guidance, and health navigation;
- Facilitating communication between the Medicaid member and medical providers; and providing connections to community-based resources.
- The perinatal, childbirth, postpartum and newborn periods, including abortion, miscarriage and stillbirth.

## Who Can Receive Doula Services?

- All New York State (NYS) Medicaid-enrolled pregnant, birthing and postpartum individuals.
- Medicaid members can receive doula services during pregnancy and childbirth and for up to 12 months after the pregnancy ends — no matter how the pregnancy ends.
- If a Medicaid member becomes pregnant again within the 12 months after the end of pregnancy, they are eligible for doula services again.

## What Services Can a Medicaid-Enrolled Doula Be Reimbursed For?

- NYS Medicaid-enrolled doulas can be reimbursed for up to 8 doula visits before and after pregnancy, and doula support during childbirth.

## Who Can Be Reimbursed for Doula Services through NYS Medicaid?

- NYS Medicaid-enrolled doula providers can be reimbursed for doula services provided to eligible NYS Medicaid members.

## What is the Total Amount the Doula Can Be Reimbursed?

- If an enrolled doula provides 8 visits and childbirth support, they will be reimbursed by fee-for-service up to \$1500 in New York City and \$1350 everywhere else in NYS. Medicaid Managed Care plans are encouraged to match or exceed fee-for-service rates.

## What are the Requirements to Become a Medicaid-Enrolled Doula?

- All Medicaid-enrolled doulas must be age 18 or older, certified in Adult and Infant CPR, comply with privacy requirements (HIPAA), possess liability coverage and meet either training or work experience pathway requirements.



Learn more about the  
doula services benefit:  
[health.ny.gov/DoulaProviders](https://health.ny.gov/DoulaProviders)



**Department  
of Health  
Medicaid**