Expanding Coverage of Breastfeeding Education/Lactation Counseling and Breast Pumps by NYS Medicaid

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Governor Cuomo established NYS Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) by Executive Order, January 2011.

- Ten workgroups were established, including Basic Benefits.
- Proposals were invited from DOH, organizations, stakeholders, and the public. Proposals needed to include:
  - Rationale (evidence-base)
  - Recommendations (USPSTF, professional organizations - AAP, ACOG, AAFP)
  - Estimated costs (or savings)
Process for Changing NYS Medicaid Benefit – Next Steps

- NYS MRT Basic Benefits Workgroup recommended Lactation Counseling Services be added as a new benefit.
- NYSDOH public health staff and Medicaid staff:
  - Developed a State Plan Amendment
  - Submitted it to CMS June 2012
- CMS approved plan December 28, 2012
- NYSDOH worked with NYS Medicaid to develop the specifics of the breastfeeding education/lactation counseling benefit.
New York Medicaid Benefit
Breastfeeding Education / Lactation Counseling

- Effective dates:
  - April 1, 2013, Medicaid Fee-for-Service
  - May 1, 2013, Managed Care & Family Health Plus plans

- Population: Pregnant or postpartum woman

- Who can provide service and be reimbursed:
  - IBCLCs who are licensed and currently registered in New York as a physician, physician assistant, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or nurse.

- Where service can be provided:
  - Article 28 clinic, private practice, free-standing clinic or Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC).
What is the New Benefit?

- **A Distinct, Separate Billable Service**

  - **Individual Sessions: Code S9445**
    - $45.00 per session
    - Three visits allowed
    - The initial visit must be a minimum of 45 minutes
    - Follow-up session(s) must be a minimum of 30 minutes
    - During pregnancy or 12 months postpartum

  - **Group Sessions: Code S9446**
    - $15.00 per person per session
    - Two group sessions allowed
    - Group sessions must be at least 60 minutes
    - Up to a maximum of 8 participants in a group session
    - One session during the prenatal period and one session during the postpartum period
Participation in NY Medicaid

- Most women in NY who have Medicaid participate in Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs).
- MCPs must provide lactation counseling services, but the payment structure is up to the discretion of the Managed Care organization (contractually negotiated rates).
- MCPs are expected to reimburse IBCLC licensed/registered health care professionals for breastfeeding education and lactation counseling.
NYS Medicaid - Improved Quality of Breast Pumps that were reimbursed

- NYS Medicaid covers the purchase of manual and personal use electric breast pumps.
  - To improve the quality & safety of breast pumps minimum pump specifications were developed and set.
    www.health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/breastfeeding/
  - This resulted in increased maximum reimbursement rates for both manual and personal electric pumps.

- NYS Medicaid also covers rental of hospital-grade electric pumps for preterm infants or infants with special needs.
New York Medicaid Coverage of Breast Pumps

Purchase:

- E0602 Breast pump, manual, any type
  - Maximum Reimbursement Rate = $31.71
- E0603 Breast pump, electric (AC and/or DC), any type
  - Maximum Reimbursement Rate = $173.47

Rental:

- E0604 Breast pump, hospital grade, electric (AC and/or DC), any type
  - Maximum Reimbursement Rate = $38.61/month
Policy Comparisons

- **NYS Medicaid Policy**
  - Medicaid Insurance
  - IBCLC healthcare professionals
  - Covers purchase of manual and personal-use electric pumps, rental of hospital grade pumps, and kits
  - No coverage for donor human milk

- **USBC Recommendations**
  - ACA health insurance plans: preventive health services
  - Credentialed by insurers, e.g. IBCLCs
  - Covers purchase of personal-use electric pumps, rental of hospital grade pumps, and kits
  - Covers pasteurized donor human milk
Policy Comparisons

• **NYS Medicaid Policy**
  ◦ Two group classes
    * One prenatal class
    * One postpartum class
  ◦ Inpatient bundled services
  ◦ 3 outpatient visits:
    * Initial minimum 45 mins
    * F/U minimum 30 mins

• **USBC Recommendations**
  ◦ Class/groups:
    * One prenatal class
    * Support groups: Up to 12 (monthly); no postpartum class
  ◦ Depends on provider providing inpatient service
  ◦ 6 outpatient visits:
    * Up to 2 hours per visit
Websites to visit

  - See Medicaid Breastfeeding Promotion and Resources
- [https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/DME/PDFS/Pharmacy_Reimbursement_for_Breast_Pump_Specs_April_1,_2013.pdf](https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/DME/PDFS/Pharmacy_Reimbursement_for_Breast_Pump_Specs_April_1,_2013.pdf)
- [https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/DME/PDFS/DME_Procedure_Codes.pdf](https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/DME/PDFS/DME_Procedure_Codes.pdf)
  - See pages 7-9 and 83
Next Steps