

Provider Bulletin

HEDIS[®] News You Can Use

Prenatal/Postpartum Care (PPC)



Importance of Prenatal and Postpartum Care

Prenatal and postpartum care are essential for improving maternal and infant health outcomes. Early and consistent prenatal care helps identify and manage health risks during pregnancy, reducing the likelihood of complications and adverse birth outcomes, while comprehensive postpartum care supports the long-term well-being of both mother and child.



Timeliness of Prenatal Care Requirements

A prenatal care visit must occur in the first trimester and be conducted by an OB/GYN, other prenatal care practitioner, or PCP. If the visit is with a PCP, the medical record must include a diagnosis of pregnancy. Documentation must include the date of the visit, and one of the following:

- Prenatal flow sheet
- LMP, EDD, or gestational age
- Positive pregnancy test result
- Gravida/parity or obstetrical history
- Prenatal risk assessment or education
- Basic obstetrical physical exam
- Prenatal care procedures (i.e., obstetric panel, ultrasound)



Postpartum Care Requirements

To meet compliance, the postpartum visit must occur between 7 and 84 days (1 to 12 weeks) after delivery and fulfill one of the following:

- Pelvic exam
- Evaluation of weight, BP, breasts and abdomen
- Notation of postpartum care
- Perineal or cesarean incision/wound check
- Screening for depression, anxiety, tobacco use, substance use disorder, or preexisting mental health disorders
- Glucose screening for members with gestational diabetes
- Documentation of any of the following topics: infant care or breastfeeding, resumption of intercourse, birth spacing or family planning, sleep/fatigue, resumption of physical activity, or attainment of health weight



Measure specifications and codes

Accurate medical coding, including the use of CPT II codes, and compliance with NCQA standards are essential for proper reimbursement and to provide high-quality patient care.

For more detailed measure info and codes, go to [MC Gap Closure Reference Guide](#)



How Mercy Care Helps

- Written member outreach which includes "You and Your Baby" magazine and postpartum depression letter
- Mercy Care website offers educational information
- Text messaging, emails, and IVR outreaches to close gaps
- Outreach telephone calls to members who delivered, encouraging them to schedule a postpartum visit and offering transportation assistance
- OB case management care for high-risk members
- Coordinate referrals and reporting of pregnant members with MC ICM Perinatal Management program
- Prenatal and postpartum visit incentives



Great Resources

Mercy Care pays for 2 postpartum visits, submit claims even if you are using global billing

For members assigned but choosing not to establish care, go to [MC PCP Change Request Form](#)

For up-to-date, measure specific codes, go to [MC Gap Closure Reference Guide](#)

**Thank you for the care you provide
to our members**



Best Practices

Tips to improve results

- If member transfers after first trimester, request previous medical record or document where visits occurred.
- Begin postpartum care discussions on a prenatal visit and provide educational material while your patient is still in the hospital or birthing center.
- Schedule the postpartum visit within four weeks of delivery to allow enough time to reschedule a missed appointment before 12 weeks.
- Consider a practice-level quality-improvement project if you find many canceled or "no-show" appointments.