

POSTPARTUM CHECKUPS

Summary

According to the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) benchmarks developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), new moms should complete a postpartum checkup 7 to 84 days after delivery.

UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) encourages providers to educate new moms on the importance of postpartum checkups. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends that all new mothers be seen by their OBGYN provider within the first three weeks postpartum. This initial evaluation should be followed up with ongoing care, as needed, concluding with a comprehensive postpartum exam no later than 12 weeks postpartum.

HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Why are postpartum checkups important?

It is easy for a patient who has just had a newborn to forget to take care of herself. As a postpartum care provider, you have the opportunity to educate new moms on the importance of postpartum care and encourage them to complete this important visit.

The postpartum visit is an opportunity for the provider to address:

- Complications that occurred during pregnancy.
- Underlying medical conditions.
- Health of the infant.
- Breastfeeding.
- Maternal/infant bonding.
- Depression screening.
- Sexual activity and plans for contraception.

We know how important it is for you to meet HEDIS measures. The postpartum care HEDIS measure looks at the percentage of patients who had a postpartum visit that included a pelvic exam or postpartum care on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery.

Get your efforts on record

Make sure your medical records reflect:

- The date of the postpartum visit.
- Evidence of one of the following:
 - Pelvic exam
 - Evaluation of weight, blood pressure, breasts and abdomen (notation of breastfeeding is acceptable for the evaluation of breasts component)
 - Notation of postpartum care (for example, postpartum care, postpartum checkup, six-week check) or a preprinted postpartum care form in which information was documented during the visit

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UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc.
Medicaid Managed Care

UniCare members enrolled in our Healthy Rewards program can earn a \$25 incentive for completing a postpartum checkup between 7 and 84 days after delivery. If her Medicaid benefits offered by UniCare are going to expire after birth, encourage her to have a follow-up exam before she loses coverage.

Helpful tips:

- If the patient comes in one or two weeks after a cesarean section delivery for a postsurgical check or the removal of staples, educate her on the importance of new moms coming back for a visit 7 to 84 days after delivery and schedule the visit.
- Call patients to schedule the postpartum visits as well as remind them of their appointment dates and times.
- Follow up with patients who miss appointments and reschedule.
- Make sure the postpartum checkup date is on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery (a day early or a day late does not count).
- Make sure the postpartum date is on the claim.
- Document all services using the ACOG forms.

How UniCare helps

We help you get our members the postpartum care they need by:

- Posting postpartum care *Clinical Practice Guidelines* on our provider self-service website.
- Calling members to remind them to schedule their postpartum visits.
- Enrolling members into our Taking Care of Baby and Me® program to help you coordinate their care.
- Distributing educational materials to members we identify as pregnant or recently given birth.

Additionally, our postpartum member outreach program:

- Offers appointment scheduling assistance.
- Provides postpartum care information and education.
- Provides in-home postpartum visits by a nurse practitioner for qualifying women who cannot get in to see their doctor.

Obstetrics policy billing changes

Bundled obstetrical delivery CPT® codes that include postpartum care are no longer reimbursable. The most appropriate delivery-only CPT code is to be submitted for the delivery itself. The specific postpartum care CPT code may be used for billing that service when the postpartum visit occurs.

Acceptable unbundled codes:

Procedure code	Code description
59409, 59612	Vaginal delivery only
59514, 59620	C-section delivery only
59430	Postpartum outpatient visit

What if I need assistance?

Please call **1-800-700-0668** for more information.

