New York Coverage of Lactation Counseling Services and Breast Pumps

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New York Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT)

- Established by Executive Order in January 2011.
- First effort of its kind in New York State.
- The MRT worked in two phases:
  - **Phase 1**: Provide a blueprint for lowering Medicaid spending in state fiscal year 2011-12 by $2.2 billion
  - **Phase 2**: Develop a comprehensive multi-year action plan to fundamentally reform the Medicaid program
- The MRT Phase 2 Workgroup on Basic Benefit Review recommended Lactation Counseling Services be added as a new benefit.

http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign
AAP, ACOG and AAFP position statements on breastfeeding

US Preventive Services Task Force - Comprehensive breastfeeding education and lactation counseling:

- Included both prenatal and postnatal support to be most beneficial
- Increased breastfeeding initiation (39%)
- Increased breastfeeding duration:
  - Until 4-5 months (15%)
  - Until 6-8 months (38%)
US Preventive Services Task Force
Effective programs:

- Usually included at least one extended session that lasts 30 to 90 minutes.
- Led by specially trained nurses, midwives, lactation specialists, and peer counselors (primarily IBCLCs).
- Included problem solving that helps mothers master breastfeeding techniques and deal with problems that may arise.
- Included information about how the body produces breast milk, latch-on techniques, and use of breast pumps, as needed.
Economic Benefits


- The NYSDOH Office of Public Health estimated that cost savings realized from BF = $532 per infant per year due to lower incidences of treatment for otitis media, gastroenteritis, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), etc.
New York Medicaid Benefit
Breastfeeding Education / Lactation Counseling

- Effective April 1, 2013, Medicaid Fee-for-Service
- Effective May 1, 2013, Managed Care and Family Health Plus Plans
- Pregnant or postpartum woman
- IBCLCs who are licensed and currently registered in New York as a: physician, physician assistant, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or nurse can provide services and be reimbursed by Medicaid.
- Provided at an Article 28 clinic, private practice, free-standing clinic or Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC).
Breastfeeding Education / Lactation Counseling – New York Medicaid Benefit

- **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
  - One session during the prenatal period and one session during the postpartum period
  - Up to a maximum of eight participants in a group session
Important Points

- Lactation counseling services may be billed directly to Medicaid by only physicians, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners who are IBCLCs.

- A physician who employs an IBCLC physician assistant or registered nurse may bill Medicaid for lactation counseling services.

- A lactation counseling session is billed under the mother’s Medicaid ID number not the baby’s Medicaid number.
Important Points

- This benefit covers outpatient lactation counseling services not inpatient services.

- This benefit is a separate and distinct breastfeeding service.
  
  - If a physician is an IBCLC, he/she can bill for a full office visit and also the extra time spent on lactation counseling as a separate service.
  
  - If a physician is not an IBCLC, he/she can bill for a full office visit and lactation counseling services provided by an IBCLC health care professional in his/her office.
Important Points

- If the physician is not an IBCLC and he/she does not have an IBCLC health care professional on staff, by NYS policy, he/she cannot bill for a separate service by using patient education codes, S9445 and S9446, and ICD-9 codes for lactation.

- If a patient has Medicare or commercial insurance and Medicaid is secondary, Medicaid can be billed for the coinsurance and/or deductible.
New York Managed Care and Family Health Plus Plans

- Most women in New York 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.
New York Medicaid Coverage for Breast Pumps

- Most employed mothers who are lactating have to pump milk at work and need to be provided with accommodations to do so.

- Goal is increase the number of women who continue feeding their infants breast milk, ideally exclusively for the first six months of life and continuing until 12 months of age.

- New York Medicaid provides breast pumps for breastfeeding mothers on Medicaid who need to pump to maintain their milk supply.
New York Medicaid - Improved Quality & Reimbursement of Breast Pumps

- 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. [www.health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/breastfeeding/](http://www.health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/breastfeeding/)
  - New reimbursement rates were calculated by Medicaid which increase the maximum reimbursement amount for both manual and personal electric pumps.
- NYS Medicaid 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
Questions?

If you have additional questions, send them to: promotebreastfeeding@health.state.ny.us
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
  - See pages 7-9 and 83