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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hicks-Hudson and Crawley

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Medicaid program to cover doula services provided by a doula with a valid provider agreement who (1) is certified by a doula certification organization and (2) meets other training and experience requirements.
- Requires the Medicaid Director to establish a state doula registry.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Medicaid coverage of doula services

The bill requires the Medicaid program to cover doula services that are provided by a doula with a valid provider agreement who meets the requirements discussed below.¹ The bill defines doula services as physical, emotional, or educational support provided during prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum periods, other than support that is considered to be medical, midwifery, or clinical in nature. Doula services include all of the following:

1. Prenatal and postpartum visits;
2. Birth support and time spent on-call in reasonable anticipation of a birth;
3. Communications between a doula and a pregnant woman or her support person;
4. Connecting a pregnant woman or woman capable of becoming pregnant with nonprofit organizations that provide assistance in locating health and social services;
5. Time spent on related administrative tasks such as documentation.²

¹ R.C. 5164.071(B).

² R.C. 5164.071(A)(3).

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for Medicaid payments, a doula must submit all of the following to the satisfaction of the Medicaid Director:³

1. Proof that the doula has a current, valid certificate issued by a doula certification organization. The bill defines doula certification organization as a nationally or internationally recognized entity for training and certifying doulas whose educational curriculum meets the requirements set forth in the bill. Some examples include the International Childbirth Education Association and DONA International.⁴
2. An attestation that the doula has completed at least 24 hours of in-person classroom instruction and training that includes any combination of childbirth education, birth doula training, antepartum doula training, and postpartum doula training.
3. Proof of attendance at one breastfeeding class, two childbirth classes, and two births.
4. At least one positive reference from a birth mother and at least one positive reference from a physician or a certified nurse midwife.
5. Proof of completion of instruction in cultural competency, CPR, and health information confidentiality, including privacy standards established under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Medicaid payments

The bill specifies that Medicaid payments for doula services are to be determined on the basis of each pregnancy. The total of all Medicaid payments for doula services for each pregnancy cannot exceed \$1,500, regardless of whether the pregnancy involves multiple births.⁵

Doula registry

The bill requires the Medicaid Director to establish a state doula registry.⁶ The registry is to include any doula who requests to be included on the registry if the Director is satisfied that the doula meets all of the requirements set forth in the bill to be eligible for Medicaid payments, and if all of the following are the case:

1. The doula is at least 18;
2. The doula has not been excluded from participation in the Medicaid program;
3. The doula is covered by malpractice insurance;

³ R.C. 5164.071(C).

⁴ R.C. 5164.071(A)(2).

⁵ R.C. 5164.071(B).

⁶ R.C. 5164.071(D).

- 4. The doula has complied with any other eligibility requirement established by the Medicaid Director.

Rules

The Medicaid Director is required to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the bill.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-28-20

H0611-I-133/ec

⁷ R.C. 5164.071(E).