

Medicaid and Child Health Plus Postpartum Coverage Extended from 60 Days to One Year

As of March 1, 2023, pregnant women and low-income children who are pregnant and enrolled in either Medicaid and/or Child Health Plus will now be eligible to receive up to twelve months of postpartum coverage, regardless of immigration status or how the pregnancy ended.

What this means

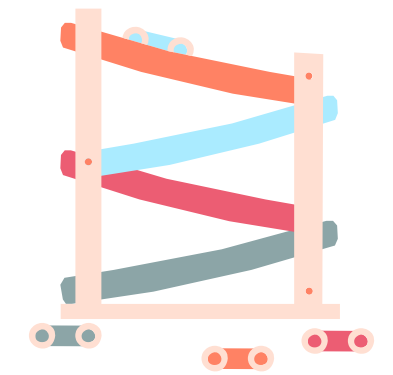
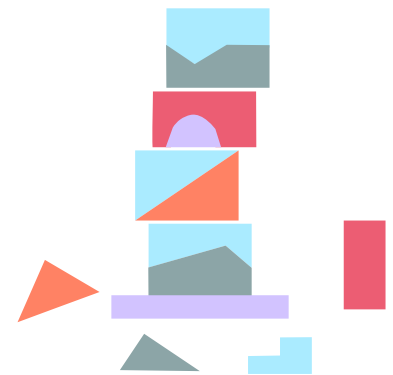
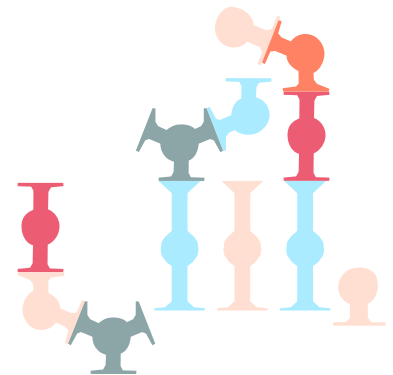
- Medicaid and/or Child Health Plus postpartum coverage will now be extended for twelve months after pregnancy regardless of any change to a person's income or household size during the period that could deem them ineligible to receive these benefits.
- Services that Medicaid and/or Child Health Plus will cover for the 12 month period include the entire spectrum of Medicaid and/or Child Health Plus benefits, ranging from doctor visits to hospital visits, prescription drugs, as well as everything in between, including psychotherapy for example.

Background

- The federal government introduced a new rule in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Act, which expands postpartum coverage from sixty days to 12 months after giving birth for any state who wishes to implement such an option. New York State has adopted the rule and is the 35th state to be approved for the extended coverage.
- New York's decision to implement the federal option to increase postpartum coverage also supports the Biden administration's Maternity Care Action plan to improve maternal health, particularly in disadvantaged communities. A major goal of this expansion in coverage is to reduce racial inequality in connection to postpartum morbidity and mortality by providing underserved New Yorkers with as much healthcare for one year following giving birth as they need.
- As part of the advocacy successes of the NYIC's Coverage4All campaign and an important step towards accessing health care coverage for all New Yorkers, the 2023 New York State Budget additionally included a provision to extend postpartum coverage to cover all pregnant women and low-income children who are pregnant, regardless of immigration status, who meet the income criteria under Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

Eligibility

- Individuals eligible for this benefit include all individuals who, while pregnant, were eligible and received services under New York State's Medicaid program or New York State's Child Health Plus program may receive these benefits. As of the 2024 State Budget, this benefit will also be extended to individuals in the Essential Plan.
- Individuals shall remain eligible throughout the duration of the pregnancy (including any period of retroactive eligibility), even if pregnancy is terminated, and the 12- month postpartum period.
- The 12-month postpartum period will begin on the last day of the pregnancy and end on the last day of the 12th month.
- While Medicaid coverage will be extended regardless of any change to a person's income or household size during the period, eligibility can be terminated during the period due to the following conditions:
 - (1) if person requests to voluntarily disenroll in the program;
 - (2) if person moves out-of-state;
 - (3) if person eligibility was determined incorrectly at the most recent redetermination or if eligibility was determined due to error or fraud, abuse or perjury; and
 - (4) if the person dies.



Enrollment

Enrollment in Medicaid and/or Child Health Plus can be done at any time during the year.

How to apply:

- Online at nystateofhealth.ny.gov. A chat feature is available on the website during customer service center hours to help you complete your application.
- Call the NY State of Health Customer Service Center at [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777).
- Get free enrollment assistance from a Navigator, in person or by phone. Find a Navigator at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations.
- Find multilingual information about health coverage at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/InformationalMaterials
- New York City residents: call [311](tel:311), text "CoveredNYC" to 877-877, or visit on.nyc.gov/healthinsurance for help and additional resources.
- If you are in foster care or a foster care youth and do not qualify to enroll at the New York State of Health Marketplace, you can also apply at your local Department of Social Services (health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm)