Coverage Summary

Maternity and Newborn Care

Approved by: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee  Last Review Date: 03/19/2019
Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline: Sterilization (NCD 230.3)

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The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy, however Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable.

There are instances where this document may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG). In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5).

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I. COVERAGE

Coverage Statement: Maternity care is covered when Medicare criteria are met. Newborn care is not covered.

Guidelines/Notes:
1. The following services are covered when criteria are met:
   a. Skilled medical management throughout the events of pregnancy, beginning with the diagnosis, continuing through delivery and ending after the necessary postnatal care

   Note: Surgeons and obstetricians should bill Medicare for an all inclusive package charge intended to cover all services associated with the surgical procedure or delivery of the child. All expenses for surgical and obstetrical care, including preoperative/prenatal examinations and tests and postoperative/postnatal services are considered incurred on the date of surgery or delivery, as appropriate.

   b. Nurse-midwife services are covered when:

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1) Services and supplies furnished incident to a nurse midwife's service if they would have been covered when furnished incident to the services of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

2) Services are furnished by a nurse-midwife that he or she is legally authorized to perform in the State in which the services are furnished and that would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician, including obstetrical and gynecological services. (See definition of Certified Nurse-Midwife in Section II)

Notes:
- Network lock-in may apply per the member’s EOC
- Nurse-midwife services are covered if provided in the nurse-midwife's office, in the patient's home, or in a hospital or other facility, such as a clinic or birthing center owned or operated by a nurse-midwife.
- Relationship With Physician- Most States have licensure and other requirements applicable to nurse-midwives. For example, some require that the nurse-midwife have an arrangement with a physician for the referral of the patient in the event a problem develops that requires medical attention. Others may require that the nurse-midwife function under the general supervision of a physician. Although these and similar State requirements must be met in order for the nurse-midwife to provide Medicare covered care, they have no effect on the nurse-midwife's right to personally bill for and receive direct Medicare payment. That is, billing does not have to flow through a physician or facility.

See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, §180 - Nurse - Midwife (CNM) Services for coverage of services performed by nurse-midwives incident to the service of physicians, educational requirements and other information. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

c. Laboratory testing when medically reasonable and necessary for the management of pregnancy; See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, §20.1 - Physician Expense for Surgery, Childbirth, and Treatment for Infertility. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

d. Related genetic testing and counseling for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the unborn child; see the Coverage Summary for Genetic Testing.

e. Treatment of a spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) and complications of pregnancy or childbirth


Also see the Coverage Summary for Abortion.

f. Preterm Labor - Identification and Treatment
- Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Identification and Treatment of Preterm Labor.
- Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) do not exist at this time.
- For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Preterm Labor Management.
- Committee approval date: March 19, 2019
- Accessed March 6, 2019

g. In Utero Fetal Surgery
• Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for In Utero Fetal Surgery.
• Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) do not exist at this time.
• For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Intrauterine Fetal Surgery.
• Committee approval date: March 19, 2019
• Accessed March 6, 2019

2. The following services are **not covered**:
   a. Services of nurse-midwives are not covered if they are otherwise excluded from Medicare coverage even though a nurse-midwife is authorized by State law to perform them. For example, the Medicare program excludes from coverage routine physical checkups and services that are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.
   

   b. Items and services furnished to the infant after delivery are not covered.

   (Note: After infant is delivered, and is a separate individual, items and services furnished to the infant are not covered on the basis of the mother's eligibility. UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members must arrange for newborn insurance coverage.)


   c. Any procedure intended solely for sex determination (e.g., amniocentesis, ultrasound and chorionic villi sampling [CVS]); see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 16, §20 – Services not Reasonable and Necessary. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

   d. Blood testing to determine paternity; see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 16, §20 – Services not Reasonable and Necessary. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

   e. Routine elective sterilization following delivery (e.g., tubal ligation); see the NCD for Sterilization (230.3). (Accessed March 6, 2019)

   f. Childbirth classes (e.g., Lamaze); see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 16, §20 – Services not Reasonable and Necessary. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

   g. Services of a lactation specialist; see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 16, §20 – Services not Reasonable and Necessary. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

   h. Take home medications and/or supplies, unless the member has a supplemental pharmacy benefit; see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 1, § 30.5 - Drugs for Use Outside Hospital. (Accessed March 6, 2019)

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**Certified Nurse-Midwife**: A registered nurse who has successfully completed a program of study and clinical experience in nurse-midwifery, meeting guidelines prescribed by the Secretary, or who has been certified by an organization recognized by the Secretary. The Secretary has recognized certification by the American College of Nurse-Midwives and State qualifying requirements in those States that specify a program of education and clinical experience for nurse-midwives for these
purposes. A nurse-midwife must:

- Be currently licensed to practice in the State as a registered professional nurse; and
- Meet one of the following requirements:
  - Be legally authorized under State law or regulations to practice as a nurse-midwife and have completed a program of study and clinical experience for nurse-midwives, as specified by the State; or
  - If the State does not specify a program of study and clinical experience that nurse-midwives must complete to practice in that State, the nurse-midwife must:
    - Be currently certified as a nurse-midwife by the American College of Nurse-Midwives;
    - Have satisfactorily completed a formal education program (of at least one academic year) that, upon completion, qualifies the nurse to take the certification examination offered by the American College of Nurse-Midwives; or
    - Have successfully completed a formal education program for preparing registered nurses to furnish gynecological and obstetrical care to women during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period, and care to normal newborns, and have practiced as a nurse-midwife for a total of 12 months during any 18-month period from August 8, 1976, to July 16, 1982.


III. REFERENCES

See above.

IV. REVISION HISTORY

04/01/2019  
- Updated policy introduction; added language to clarify:
  - There are instances where [the Coverage Summary] may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG)
  - In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (_Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5_)
- Retitled reference links that direct users to UnitedHealthcare Commercial policies

03/19/2019  Annual review; no updates.

03/20/2018  Annual review; no updates.

03/21/2017  Annual review with the following update:

Guideline 1. B (Nurse-midwife services) – Replaced language “The nurse-midwife must be part of the member’s contracted primary medical group. (For UnitedHealthcare and AARP MedicareComplete Only)” with “Network lock-in may apply per the member’s EOC.”

03/15/2016  Annual review with the following update:

- Guideline 1.b (Maternity Support Garments) – removed; reference local articles no longer available; no other available Medicare reference.

03/24/2015  Annual review; with no updates.
03/18/2014  Annual review with the following updates:
  •  Guideline #1 - Deleted the following examples of covered services: Fetal fibronectin enzyme immunoassay; Educational materials for individual needs provided in physician’s office; Contracted birthing center/alternate birthing centers when available at a Medicare certified facility.
  •  Deleted the definitions of Postnatal and Prenatal.

04/29/2013  Annual review; no updates.

04/23/2012  Annual review; no updates.

04/26/2011  Annual review; no updates.

10/21/2010  Updated the reference and link for #2.b Maternity Support Garments.