

Doula Services



Medicaid Medical Coverage Policy

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State: LA

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Description

A doula is an individual who has been trained to provide continuous physical, emotional and educational support to pregnant and birthing women and their families before, during and after childbirth to help achieve the healthiest, most satisfying experience possible.

Doula treatment or care involves maternal healthcare services rendered by a registered doula in Louisiana. Doula's must hold registered doula status, granted by the Louisiana Doula registry Board.

Research has demonstrated that support from a doula is associated with lower cesarean section rates, fewer obstetric interventions, fewer complications during and after childbirth, decreased use of pain medication, shorter labor hours, and higher scores on the Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration (APGAR) test, which indicates how well the baby is doing outside the womb.⁵

Coverage Determination

Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana members may be eligible under the Plan for **doula treatment or care** when ALL of the following are met:⁴

- The individual is enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid; **AND**
- A licensed healthcare provider has certified that the individual is pregnant or in the postpartum period; **AND**
- The pregnant or postpartum individual requests or consents to the use of doula services; **AND**
- The individual will continue to participate with all routine and/or specialty obstetrical care

Prenatal Doula Services

- Advocacy visits (S9445) include up to five (5) prenatal visits for up to ninety minutes for the following indications:
 - Prepare individual for childbirth by explaining a healthy pregnancy, practice coping techniques to manage discomfort experienced during labor, and practice relaxation and therapeutic touch
 - Offer suggestions and referrals to address social determinants of health such as food and baby care items
 - Help the individual design a birth plan to reflect their preferences, recognizing variances occur and the birth plan may require adjustment during labor and delivery

Delivery Doula Services

- Doula attendance at a vaginal or cesarean delivery [99199 one (1) time] includes the following:
 - Being physically present and supporting the individual during the active labor phase and staying throughout the duration of labor and birth phase
 - Providing suggestions and helping the individual practice coping techniques and comfort measures as labor progresses
- Doulas provide physical and emotional support and encouragement to individuals and their partner/family

Postnatal (after birth) Doula Services

- Advocacy visits (S9445) include up to three (3) postnatal visits for up to ninety minutes for the following indications:
 - Provide physical and emotional support for a short time after the birth

- Perform a postpartum visit and answer questions about newborn feeding, newborn care, and discuss concerns about the birthing experience
- Doulas have a responsibility to refer to the provider for all clinical concerns outside their scope of practice
- Doulas have a responsibility to report any physical or behavioral health concerns to the provider that could put the baby or mother at risk

Coding Information

Any codes listed on this policy are for informational purposes only. Do not rely on the accuracy and inclusion of specific codes. Inclusion of a code does not guarantee coverage and/or reimbursement for a service or procedure.

CPT® Code(s)	Description	Comments
99199	Unlisted special service, procedure, or report	
CPT® Category III Code(s)	Description	Comments
No code(s) identified		
HCPCS Code(s)	Description	Comments
S9445	Patient education, not otherwise classified, non-physician provider, individual, per session	

References

1. Louisiana Administrative Code Title 48-5-57 Doula Registration. Louisiana Division of Administration: Office of State Registrar. <https://doa.la.gov/doa/osr/louisiana-administrative-code>.
2. Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Louisiana Doula Registry. <https://ldh.la.gov>.
3. Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Doula Registry Board. <https://ldh.la.gov>.
4. Louisiana State Legislature. Act 228 (2025). <https://legis.la.gov>.
5. National Partnership for Women & Families. Continuous Support for Women During Childbirth: 2017 Cochrane Review Update Key Takeaways. J Perinat Educ. 2018 Oct;27(4):193-197.

Change Summary

8/22/22: Policy creation-Approved by LDH for Readiness

5/15/23: Approved by LA UM Committee

9/26/23: Changed to new template

1/29/24: Minor changes made

10/28/2024: Annual Review, minor grammatical changes and updated references to the most recent edition reviewed

8/5/2025: Annual Review. New Medical Coverage Policy Template. Updated Guidance per ACT 228

Appendix

Billing Guide

Description	CPT Code	Rate	Visits
Prenatal Doula Visits	S9445	\$75.00	5 max
Postnatal Doula Visits	S9445	\$75.00	3 max
Delivery attendance by Doula	99199	\$450.00	1 max