

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Termination of Georgia's Postpartum Extension 1115(a) Waiver Demonstration and the Transition and Phase-Out Plan Notice to Extend Postpartum Services to Twelve (12) Months under the State Plan

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (Department or DCH) proposes to terminate its Postpartum Extension 1115(a) demonstration, which extends postpartum services to six (6) months or 180 days. Upon receiving approval from CMS, the Department will extend postpartum services to twelve (12) months under the state plan.

In accordance with the Special Terms and Conditions outlined in Section III of Georgia's Postpartum Extension 1115(a) demonstration, the Department is publishing this notice in order to solicit public input on the proposed changes. Interested parties will have thirty (30) calendar days from the date this notice is posted to provide comments regarding the proposed termination of the postpartum extension 1115(a) demonstration, the transition and phase-out plan, and the proposed extension to twelve (12) months postpartum services. The dates to comment verbally and in writing are outlined below.

Proposal to Terminate the Postpartum Extension 1115(a) Demonstration

The Department submitted its postpartum extension 1115(a) demonstration application to CMS on December 11, 2020. In its application, the Department noted that maternal mortality continues to be a challenge in Georgia and that most maternal deaths are preventable. Accordingly, the Department sought to extend postpartum services from sixty (60) days to six (6) months or 180 days. The primary goal of the demonstration was to extend access to care and improve continuity of care that would lead to a reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality. The demonstration application was approved by CMS on April 16, 2021 and is effective through March 31, 2026. The approval letter can be accessed by selecting the following links:

<http://dch.georgia.gov/document/document/postpartum-ext-demonstration-approval/download>

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/downloads/ga-postpartum-ext-ca.pdf>

The Department is proposing to terminate its postpartum extension 1115(a) demonstration, effective October 31, 2022, for the following reasons:

1. The current 1115(a) demonstration only extends postpartum services to six (6) months or 180 days.
2. Per section 9812 of the American Rescue Plan Act, which was signed into law in March 2021, states have the option to extend postpartum services to twelve (12) months under the state plan.
3. DCH has opted to extend postpartum services to twelve (12) months under the state plan.

4. Transitioning to twelve (12) months postpartum services under the state plan should extend access to care and improve continuity of care that should lead to a reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality.

The eligibility groups will remain the same under the state plan twelve (12) months postpartum coverage option.

When Will the Twelve (12) Months Postpartum Services Begin?

Upon receipt of CMS approval. CMS must approve the Department's transition and phase-out plan before the Department can begin implementing its phase-out activities. Additionally, CMS must approve the state plan amendment extending postpartum services to twelve (12) months.

Transition and Phase-Out Plan

1. Submission of State Plan Amendment:
 - DCH will submit a State Plan Amendment extending postpartum services to twelve (12) months in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act.
2. Process to Notify Affected Members:
 - Members who are receiving postpartum services through the 1115(a) postpartum demonstration will be notified in writing, via U.S. mail, of the state's intent to terminate the 1115(a) postpartum demonstration and extend postpartum services to twelve (12) months. A draft copy of the notice is attached in Appendix A.
 - Members who are receiving postpartum services through the 1115(a) demonstration will be notified of the transition to twelve (12) months postpartum services through direct member outreach.
 - Notice will be placed on the Care Management Organizations' (CMO) member webpages, the DCH webpage, the Gateway system, and the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS).
 - DCH will engage external stakeholders, provider associations, and advocacy groups, including, but not limited to the following:
 - Center for Reproductive Rights
 - Maternal Mortality Stakeholders Group (MMSG)
 - Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF)
 - Interfaith Children's Movement, Inc. (ICM)
 - Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
 - Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA)
 - Voices for Georgia's Children
 - Georgia Chapter, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
 - Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
 - Georgia Hospital Association (GHA)
 - Planned Parenthood Southeast
 - Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (GAAAP)

3. Eligibility Re-Determinations and Enrollment Transitions:

- The state will conduct redeterminations of Medicaid eligibility prior to the termination of the demonstration for the affected members to ensure ongoing coverage for eligible beneficiaries.¹
- All mothers who are within the six-month postpartum period, under the 1115(a) demonstration, will transition out of the demonstration and will seamlessly receive the remainder of the 12 months postpartum services allowed under the state plan. Members will be notified in writing via U.S. mail and through direct member outreach.
- All mothers who have completed their six-month postpartum period, under the 1115(a) demonstration, from July 1, 2021, through the termination date will be permitted to receive the remaining six months of postpartum services allowed under the state plan. Members will be notified in writing via U.S. mail and through direct member outreach.
- Prior to making a determination of ineligibility the state will re-determine eligibility for all affected individuals in order to determine if the individual qualifies for Medicaid under a different eligibility category as required in 42 C.F.R. § 435.916(f)(1).²
- For individuals determined ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP, the state will determine potential eligibility for other insurance affordability programs and comply with the procedures set forth in 42 CFR 435.1200(e).
- The state will comply with all applicable notice requirements found in 42 CFR, part 431 subpart E, including sections 431.206 through 431.214.
- The state will ensure all applicable appeal and hearing rights are afforded to beneficiaries in the demonstration as outlined in 42 CFR, part 431 subpart E, including sections 431.220 and 431.221.
- If a beneficiary in the demonstration requests a hearing before the date of action, the state will maintain benefits as required in 42 CFR §431.230.

4. Benefits and Cost Sharing Requirements:

- The Medicaid benefit package will not change.
- There is no cost-sharing, copayment, or coinsurance

5. Care Management Organizations (CMO):

- Members who are enrolled with a Care Management Organization (Amerigroup, CareSource, or Peach State Health Plan) will continue to be enrolled with their CMO and will continue to receive postpartum services for the allowed 12 -month period.

¹ Due to the existing national Public Health Emergency, members will not be terminated at this time.

² Due to the national Public Health Emergency all redeterminations are on hold. Redeterminations will continue upon the termination of the national Public Health Emergency.

- CMO assignment/selection will follow the same process used outside the 1115(a) demonstration. Members who do not already belong to a CMO upon entry into the program will be automatically enrolled into a CMO. Members will then have a 90-day window to switch to a different plan if they choose to before being locked into their assigned plan until their annual anniversary date the following year.

6. Aged, Blind, or Disabled:

- Aged, Blind or Disabled members will continue to be enrolled in traditional Medicaid or Fee-for-Service and will continue to receive postpartum services for the allowed 12-month period.

Transition to Twelve (12) Months Postpartum Services Under the State Plan

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (Department or DCH) proposes to extend postpartum services from six (6) months to twelve (12) months as allowed under section 9812 of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The transition to twelve (12) months postpartum services is estimated to increase Medicaid expenditures for SFY 2023 as follows:

Program	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Low Income Medicaid (LIM)	\$27,395,603	\$57,624,504	\$85,020,107

The transition to twelve (12) months postpartum services is estimated to increase Medicaid expenditures for SFY 2024 as follows:

Program	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Low Income Medicaid (LIM)	\$29,744,567	\$57,790,945	\$87,535,512

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office.

Two opportunities for public comment **via Zoom audio** will be available. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

#1

Jun 6, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89832488281?pwd=MVZXd1BNOTNkOGV0eUcvdFA2Y2ZxUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3248 8281
Passcode: Open
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,89832488281# US (New York)
+13017158592,,89832488281# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 898 3248 8281

#2
June 9, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87600849632?pwd=MUZ5Y2VKNGNOdStLaWRlWmlmNWFKdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 0084 9632
Passcode: Open
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,87600849632# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,87600849632# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 876 0084 9632

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **July 1, 2022**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **July 18, 2022**, Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE 2022
Caylee Noggle, Commissioner

Appendix A

PROPOSED NOTIFICATION FOR IMPACTED MEMBERS

[Date]

[First Name, Last Name]

[Member Address]

[Member Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Re: Transition to 12-months postpartum services

Dear [Member Name]:

This is an important notice about your postpartum coverage. We are making a change to your coverage.

On July 1, 2021, the Medicaid agency extended postpartum services from sixty (60) days to six (6) months for eligible pregnant women. This was done through an 1115 demonstration that was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). You are currently receiving six (6) months postpartum services through the 1115 demonstration.

In March 2021, a new law was passed that allows state Medicaid agencies to provide twelve (12) months postpartum coverage to eligible pregnant women. The new law is called the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Section 9812 of the American Rescue Plan Act allows the Medicaid agency to provide twelve (12) months postpartum coverage.

We are proposing to end the 1115 demonstration that allows six (6) months postpartum services on or about October 31, 2022. This means you will no longer be enrolled in the 1115 demonstration after October 31, 2022. Instead of receiving six (6) months postpartum services through the 1115 demonstration, we are proposing to *increase your postpartum coverage to 12-months* under the state plan. This will give you access to postpartum services for a longer period of time. You do not have to take any action. Your postpartum coverage will transition to twelve (12) months automatically. We will notify you when this occurs.

If you have any questions, you may contact your assigned CMO using the information below:

Amerigroup:

- Toll Free Number: 800-600-4441
- <https://www.myamerigroup.com/ga/georgia-home.html>

CareSource:

- Toll Free Number: 855-202-0729
- Website: <https://www.caresource.com/ga/>

Peach State Health Plan

- Toll Free Number: 866-874-0633
- Website: <http://www.pshp.com/>

You may also call the Georgia Medicaid member call center at (770) 325-2331 or (866) 211-0950 if you are enrolled in Fee-for-Service or traditional Medicaid.

Regards,
Georgia Department of Community Health