

April 2022

OVERVIEW:

Please find the information below released on April 14, 2022 by the Louisiana Department of Health:

Effective April 1, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved Louisiana Medicaid's [state plan amendment](#) to extend healthcare coverage to pregnant women for 12 months after a pregnancy ends. In Louisiana, it is estimated that 6,500 women would lose coverage after 60 days without this expansion. Please ensure all providers are aware of this extension of coverage.

Current beneficiaries who are pregnant as of the effective date or who become pregnant after the effective date, will be provided continuous enrollment through the end of the 12-month postpartum period. Current beneficiaries who were enrolled while pregnant but are no longer pregnant as of the effective date but are still within the 12-month postpartum period will have continuous enrollment for the balance of the 12 months. For new applicants, there will be no changes to the application process. Whether pregnant or not, the individual will be evaluated and placed in the program in which they are eligible.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 gives states an option to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months. Maternal and infant health, in particular the high level of racial and ethnic disparities in preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, is driving public health and policy changes at federal and state levels. This extension in coverage is supported by evidence-based research on postpartum care which has led to a broad agreement among healthcare providers and organizations like The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, that the postpartum period should be considered 12 months.

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