



Aetna Better Health®
of Oklahoma

Aetna Better Health® of Oklahoma

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Upcoming maternity coding changes: important transition beginning September 1, 2026

Overview

The American Medical Association (AMA), in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), has approved significant changes to maternity care coding that will take effect January 1, 2027. These changes will transition the industry from the traditional global maternity billing model to a more detailed, service-based coding structure.

To support a smooth implementation, providers may begin seeing transitional billing requirements beginning September 1, 2026, for certain new maternity patients.

What is changing on September 1, 2026?

For **new maternity patients beginning prenatal care on or after September 1, 2026**, prenatal visits may be billed using Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes with modifier TH and an appropriate pregnancy diagnosis, consistent with AMA transition guidance.

This transitional approach is intended to prepare providers for the broader maternity coding changes that become effective January 1, 2027.

What does NOT change on September 1, 2026?

The September 1 transition does **not** mean the global maternity billing model has been eliminated. The comprehensive maternity coding restructure is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2027.

Additionally:

- Maternity benefits are not changing.
- The standard of care for pregnant members is not changing.

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- Providers should continue following current billing requirements when delivery occurs in 2026.
- Existing global maternity coding guidance remains applicable for qualifying pregnancies and deliveries occurring in 2026.

What is changing January 1, 2027?

Beginning January 1, 2027, the longstanding global maternity coding framework will be replaced with a service-level coding structure. Under the new model, maternity care will be reported across four phases:

- Antepartum (prenatal) care
- Labor management
- Delivery care
- Postpartum care

The AMA-approved changes include deletion of legacy global maternity codes, addition of new maternity care codes, and revisions to existing codes.

Pregnancy transition scenarios

Because many pregnancies span multiple calendar years, billing requirements may vary based on when prenatal care begins and when delivery occurs.

Providers should note:

- If delivery occurs in 2026, current global maternity billing practices generally remain in effect.
- If delivery occurs in 2027, providers should follow the applicable 2027 coding guidance for delivery services.
- Members beginning prenatal care later in 2026 may require transitional billing approaches depending on anticipated delivery timing.

Preparing your practice

Providers are encouraged to begin reviewing:

- Coding workflows
- Billing system configurations
- Revenue cycle processes
- Staff education needs
- Practice management system readiness

Additional coding education, billing guidance, operational updates and implementation resources will be communicated as they become available.

Questions?

Contact the Provider Engagement team at: **1-844-365-4385** or by email at

ABHOKProviderEngagement@Aetna.com

Aetna Better Health highlights

Colorectal cancer screening

Members have access to colorectal screening options at no cost and receive a **\$25 reward** once completed. A reminder from a trusted provider can increase screening rates and close gaps in care for Oklahomans.

Breast cancer screening

Members receive a **\$25 reward** for completing a breast cancer screening. Your recommendation matters to members and can help save lives with early detection.

Cervical cancer screening

This extra benefit gives members ages 21-64 years old a **\$25 reward** for completing their cervical cancer screening.

Encourage members to call the number on their ID card or explore support in the Aetna Better Health app.