

Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)



Facts and Talking Points

Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania and Aetna Better Health Kids encourage our provider network to continue to provide family planning options to your patients, incorporate long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) counseling, and support access to LARC in all clinically appropriate circumstances.

What are long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC)?

LARC are types of birth control that offer effective contraception for an extended period of time—anywhere from 1 to 10 years. These methods of birth control include:

- Intrauterine devices (IUDs)
 - Mirena
 - Paragard
- Subdermal contraceptive implants
 - Nexplanon

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has information on LARC methods and how to access LARC.

www.acog.org/programs/long-acting-reversible-contraception-larc

What are the barriers to LARC access for women?

- Lack of patient knowledge regarding what LARC is, how it works, and the benefits
- Lack of provider educational materials on LARC usage and availability for patients
- Lack of provider training on LARC
- Lack of referrals to Ob/Gyn providers for LARC insertion
- Common misconceptions regarding LARC usage and its link to pelvic inflammatory disease leading to patient and provider discomfort

Benefits of LARC

- Prevention of unplanned pregnancies that can result in later prenatal care, preterm or low birth weight babies
- Minimal maintenance required for the women that use LARC, i.e., no need to take a pill daily



Benefits of LARC (continued)

- LARC are safe for women of all ages (even as early as teenage)
- LARC can be inserted within minutes of childbirth
- They are cost effective due to their reduction in unplanned pregnancies
- Return of fertility is rapid following removal
- They are considered a family planning service and are a covered benefit for both Medicaid and CHIP recipients!

LARC are more effective against unplanned pregnancy than contraceptive pills, patches, rings, or condoms.

LARC Reimbursement

Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania and Aetna Better Health Kids have updated the claims payment system to comply with DHS reimbursement guidelines to pay providers for covered LARC and certain family planning services in accordance with MA and CHIP reimbursement practices.

Questions?

Reach out to your Provider Relations Representative at 1-866-638-1232 (Medicaid) or 1-800-822-2447 (CHIP). You can also reach out to Provider Relations via email at ABHProviderRelationsMailbox@Aetna.com.

Aetna Better Health will:

- Reimburse hospitals separately for the cost of the device when inserting a LARC intrauterine device (IUD) or contraceptive implant at the time of an obstetrical delivery in addition to the APR DRG payment that hospitals receive for the delivery.
- Reimburse the professional component fee for insertion of a LARC or contraceptive implant at the time of an obstetrical delivery.
 - Facilities should bill for services on the same inpatient admission claim form. The claim should include the appropriate procedure code(s) as a separate line item(s) on UB-04 form(s).
 - Bill Type 11X
- Reimburse providers according to Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement guidelines for certain family planning and family-planning related services rendered.
 - Practitioners must bill appropriate procedure code(s) and modifier(s) as a separate line item(s) on CMS-1500 forms.
 - Place of Service 21



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