

# Payment Policy: Reporting The Global Maternity Package

Reference Number: LA.PP.016

Product Types: ALL

Effective Date: 08/2020

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Coding Implications  
Revision Log

**See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.**

## Policy Overview

According to the CPT® manual guidelines and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); CPT's global obstetrical package includes all the services (antepartum care, delivery and postpartum care) normally provided in an *uncomplicated* maternity case. These services are considered bundled and therefore are not reported or reimbursed separately. The global obstetric package includes approximately 13 antepartum visits and traditionally extends to 6 weeks following delivery. The global obstetrical package procedure code includes antepartum, delivery and postpartum care.

When pregnancy is confirmed during a problem-oriented visit or preventative visit, these services are not included in the global OB package and are reported separately using the appropriate evaluation and management codes 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99281-99285 and 99384-99385.

The purpose of this policy is to define payment criteria for the global obstetrical package procedure code to be used in making payment decisions and administering benefits.

## Reimbursement

Louisiana Healthcare Connections clinical code auditing software will flag provider claims billed with a maternity service that was previously reimbursed by the global OB code or billed with the global OB code for clinical validation. Clinical validation occurs *prior to* claims payment. Once a claim has been clinically validated, it is either released for payment or denied for unbundling.

### *Services Included in the Global Obstetrical Package*

#### *Antepartum care includes:*

- Initial and subsequent history and physical examinations
- Physical examinations
- Recording of weight, blood pressures, fetal heart tones, and routine chemical urinalysis
- Monthly visits up to 28 weeks gestation, biweekly visits to 36 weeks, and weekly visits until delivery
- Labor evaluation and management

*Reporting Additional Evaluation and Management Services during the Global Obstetrical Period*

Any evaluation and management services, inpatient or outpatient, performed that are related to the pregnancy are included in the provision of the antepartum care and are not reported separately. However, any other visits or services provided within the antepartum period should be coded and reported separately.

*Delivery services include:*

Admission to L&D, update of history and physical, management of uncomplicated labor, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, with or without forceps), or cesarean delivery or any E/M service on the calendar day prior to delivery and/or calendar day of delivery.

- Management of uncomplicated labor including fetal monitoring
- Placement of internal fetal and/or uterine monitors
- Catheterization or catheter insertion
- Preparation of the perineum with antiseptic solution
- Vaginal delivery with or without forceps or vacuum extraction
- Delivery of the placenta, any method.
- Episiotomy and repair/suturing of lacerations
- Injection of local anesthesia
- Administration of intravenous oxytocin (96365-96367)
- Exploration of uterus
- Placement of a hemostatic pack or agent
- Simple removal of Cerclage (not under anesthesia)
- Discussion and consent for contraception (includes Rx for birth control, consent for IUD, consent for tubal, [consent for Essure](#), etc.)

The health plan will not separately reimburse the aforementioned services when they are reported independently from the global OB code unless there is a state, contractual or health plan policy exception.

*Reporting Third or Fourth Degree Laceration Tear at Time of Delivery*

The ACOG 2015 Coding Manual instructs providers to report the appropriate CPT integumentary section code (e.g., 12041-12047 or 13131-13133) OR add modifier 22 to the delivery code reported.

*Postpartum care includes:*

- The recovery room visit
- Any uncomplicated inpatient hospital postpartum visits
- Uncomplicated outpatient visits
- Discussion of contraception (including writing a prescription)

Services that can also be performed during the postpartum period and are reported separately in addition to the appropriate code for the maternity delivery services include the following:

- Management of inpatient or outpatient medical problems not related to pregnancy

- Management of inpatient or outpatient medical problems or complications related to pregnancy
- Management of surgical problems arising in the postpartum period.
- Tubal ligation procedure, IUD procedure, etc. (The procedure is payable, the E/M to discuss, consent, or decision for is not – this is included in the global service)

*Rationale for Edit*

CPT Assistant defines the following guidelines for billing of the global obstetrical package.

“The global obstetrical package is reported when a physician from a solo practice or the same physician group practice provides the global routine obstetric care. Global services are reported based upon the type of delivery. It is not appropriate to report the antepartum, delivery, and postpartum care separately when a single physician or the physicians of the same group practice provide the total obstetrical care. However, there are circumstances when the antepartum care or postpartum care is reported separately and not as a global maternity package.”

- More than one obstetrician provides care for a patient
  - If the patient transfers into or out of the practice
  - Is referred to another physician at some point in the antepartum period
  - Is delivered by another physician not associated with or covering for the obstetrician
- Only one obstetrician provides care for the patient but the services are less than the usual obstetric package. Coding depends on the age of the gestational age of the fetus.
  - After 20 weeks 0 days, the physician reports the global obstetric code.
  - Prior to 20 weeks 0 days, the physician reports an abortion code and/or E/M service codes as appropriate for antepartum care.
- The patient changes insurers during her pregnancy. The physician reports an antepartum code only to the first insurer and the appropriate antepartum only and delivery plus postpartum care codes to the second insurer.

**Utilization**

*Coding for Delivery of Multiple Gestations*

Per CPT Assistant, regarding the appropriate coding of maternity services for multiple gestation pregnancies, “The preferred method of reporting a vaginal delivery of twins, when the global obstetrical care is provided by the same physician or physician group, is by appending modifier - 22 to the global maternity package.”

Both vaginal deliveries - report 59400 for twin A and 59409-51 for twin B.

One vaginal and one cesarean - report 59510 for Twin A and 59409-51 for Twin B.

Both delivered via cesarean - report only 59510 or 59514 (because only one cesarean was performed). If the cesarean is significantly more difficult, add modifier -22 to this code.

Physicians need to submit an operative note with the claim. Routine obstetric care, including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum care are included since only one cesarean delivery is performed.

**Documentation Requirements**

*Pre-payment Clinical Claims Review*

*Clinical Review Guidelines used to determine whether or not maternity services and/or additional E/M services are appropriately billed separately*

Louisiana Healthcare Connection will perform a prepayment clinical claims review when the provider submits a claim with services and/or procedures billed separately from the global service. This review is performed by a registered nurse who will review the prospective (prior to claims payment) claims history, and on appeal, medical records for adherence to correct coding principles.

*Claim Documentation Requirements*

The claim (and on appeal, medical records) should include the following documentation.

- Other services and/or procedures performed indicate a diagnosis or condition unrelated to the maternity services. This may be separately reimbursable.
- Diagnoses reported that indicate a complication to maternity services. (e.g.; pregnancy-induced hypertension, abnormal cord conditions, gestational diabetes, and pre-term labor). It is possible for these diagnoses to be separately reimbursable, however if no treatment was done they would not be reimbursed. These conditions must warrant care or treatment of a higher complexity than typical OB care, as well as require additional visits that exceed the normal allowed number of visits. The Clinical Review team reviews 60 days of history to determine what additional services were provided.
- Other diagnostic procedures or services are performed that are not considered inclusive in the typical maternity global package.

If the nurse reviewer concludes that services have been reported appropriately, the claim will be recommended for payment. If the nurse reviewer concludes that services have been reported incorrectly, the claim will be denied.

*Appeals/Reconsiderations*

The provider has the right to request a reconsideration/appeal of denied services. Medical records must accompany the request in order for the services/procedures to be reconsidered for payment. *Medical records should not be submitted upon first time claims submission*, as first time claim review consists only of a review of the information documented on the claim and in the member/provider history. Medical records should only be submitted if the claim is denied after first time claim review and the provider wishes to request a reconsideration or appeal.

**Coding and Modifier Information**

This payment policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT® codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2019, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this payment policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT/HCPCS Code	Descriptor
59400	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps) and postpartum care
59510	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum care
59610	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps) and postpartum care, after previous cesarean delivery
59618	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum care, following attempted vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery

Modifier	Descriptor
Modifier -22	Increased Procedural Services: When the work required to provide a service is substantially greater than typically required, it may be identified by adding modifier 22 to the usual procedure code. Documentation must support the substantial additional work and the reason for the additional work (ie, increased intensity, time, technical difficulty of procedure, severity of patient's condition, physical and mental effort required). Note: This modifier should not be appended to an E/M service

#### Definitions

N/A

#### Related Policies

N/A

#### Related Documents or Resources

- CC.PP.048 – Increased Procedural Services – Modifier 22 (Medicare Advantage)

#### References

1. *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)*, 2019
2. *HCPCS Level II*, 2019
3. *International Classification of Diseases*, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), 2019
4. *ICD-10-CM Official Draft Code Set*, 2019
5. *Publications and Services of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)*

Revision History	
08/15/2020	Converted corporate to local policy.
<u>08/26/2022</u>	<u>Annual Review; Removed clinical and added payment policy in “Important Reminder” section</u>

### **Important Reminder**

This [clinical-policypayment policy](#) has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this [clinical-policypayment policy](#); and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this [clinical-policypayment policy](#). This [clinical-policypayment policy](#) is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this [clinical-policypayment policy](#) was approved.

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## **PAYMENT POLICY**

### **Reporting The Global Maternity Package**



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Senior Director of Network Accounts: \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Signature on File \_\_\_\_\_

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