

GENERAL NOTIFICATION

Date: August 2026 Newsletter Edition

Effective: 09/01/2026



BlueCross BlueShield
of Vermont

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



bluecrossvt.org

Changes to Global Maternity Care and Delivery Coding

Maternity care is currently reported mainly under one 'global' code representing nine months of care as a single bundled service. This simplifies billing but does not recognize variations or levels in complexity of care.

To enable more accurate and transparent reporting of care, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Medical Association (AMA) successfully advocated for the deletion of the global maternity care and delivery codes to be replaced with new CPT® codes, effective January 1, 2027.

The new code set allows for care to be reported separately at the service level by classifying maternity care into four phases: antepartum (prenatal), labor management, delivery, and postpartum, which will allow for care to be reported more granularly at the service level.

Billing Guidance

In anticipation of the transition from the global obstetric codes to the new 2027 maternity services codes, **beginning on and for dates of service on or after September 1, 2026**, claims for the first prenatal visit after confirmation of pregnancy and subsequent antepartum visits must be billed with:

- An appropriate E/M code appended with modifier -TH to differentiate the visits as maternity care, and
- An appropriate ICD-10-CM code Z34.XX to verify the gestation of the pregnancy or with an appropriate pregnancy diagnosis code O00-O9A.

Claims are subject to E/M coding rules, and medical record documentation must support medical decision making (MDM) or the time consistent with current CPT® guidelines for the billing of an E/M code.

Claims for prenatal care for dates of services ***on or before August 31, 2026***, should be billed with the appropriate E/M code or the current antepartum codes 59425 (4-6 visits) or 59426 (7 or more visits).

For resources on the coding changes, visit the [AMA CPT® 2027 Maternity Care Services Code Changes](#) page and view the [AMA CPT® 2027 Maternity Care Services Code Guidelines](#).

We will keep you updated as we learn more, and we encourage all physicians and practitioners, coders, and billing professionals to evaluate clinical documentation and claims workflows to ensure readiness for these significant coding changes.