

GENERAL NOTIFICATION

Maternity Care Coding and Billing Changes

October 2026 Newsletter Edition



Summary

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 framework classifies maternity care into four phases:

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

The new coding structure allows care to be reported separately and more granularly at the service level and enables a tailored, more personalized care plan for an individual based on their health needs and lifestyle.

In total, 17 codes have been deleted, there are 12 new codes, and 6 existing codes have been revised. View the [List of Deleted, New, and Revised Codes](#).

To learn how to submit claims for maternity services that span 2026 and 2027, see our [Transition Billing Guidelines](#).

For more information, see these additional [Resources](#).

We will continue to evaluate the coding revisions and provide additional guidance as more information becomes available and we make changes to our claims processes, payment policies, and provider handbook.

Member Awareness

Coding changes are generally seamless for members, but this code restructuring shifts billing from global to encounter-based, and this will be a visible change for members.

We are communicating to members, alerting them that services will be billed separately instead of as one bundled claim, and as a result they will have more Summary of Health Plan Payment (SHPP) statements (aka EOBs) and see the claims billed for the services they receive.

We have assured them that this does not change their maternity benefits or the quality of care they receive.

Transition Billing Guidelines

Please follow the guidelines below when submitting claims to Blue Cross VT for obstetric services that span 2026 and 2027 dates of service.

Service	2026	2027
Vaginal or cesarean delivery in 2026	Use the appropriate current global obstetrics codes	N/A
7 or more antepartum visits in 2026 with delivery in 2027	Use CPT 59426 Use the most recent date of service as the date of service on the claim when billing	Use 2027 CPT codes for delivery and E/M codes appended with modifier -TH for postpartum visits. No additional antepartum visits should be billed in 2027
4-6 antepartum visits in 2026 with delivery in 2027	Use CPT 59425 Use the most recent date of service as the date of service on the claim when billing	For the 7th and any additional antepartum visits, use E/M codes appended with modifier -TH <u>and</u> an appropriate Z34.XX or O00-O9A diagnosis code. Use 2027 CPT codes for delivery and E/M codes appended with modifier -TH for postpartum visits.
3 or fewer antepartum visits in 2026 with delivery in 2027	Use E/M codes If the first visit after confirmation of pregnancy occurs on or after September 1, 2026, bill the appropriate E/M code appended with the modifier -TH <u>and</u> an appropriate Z34.XX or O00-O9A diagnosis code.	Use 2027 CPT codes for delivery and E/M codes appended with modifier -TH for postpartum visits.

The modifier -TH identifies that the service is related to prenatal or postpartum care and is reportable regardless of the specialty of the physician or practitioner performing the service.

E/M coding rules apply, 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.

Resources

Visit the [AMA CPT® 2027 Maternity Care Services Code Changes](#) page.

View the [AMA CPT® 2027 Maternity Care Services Code Guidelines](#) and [AMA FAQs: CPT® 2027 Maternity Care Services Code Changes](#).

Watch or listen to the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists' (ACOG) [New Obstetric Billing Codes Virtual Town Hall Webinar Series](#).

List of Deleted, New and Revised Codes

DELETED CODES Valid Through 12/31/2026	NEW CODES Effective 1/1/2027	REVISED CODES Effective 1/1/2027
59050	59080	59412
59400	59081	59051
59409	59082	59414
59410	59083	59300
59425	59431	59898
59426	59432	59899
59430	59433	
59510	59434	
59514	59502	
59515	59503	
59525	59504	
59610	59623	
59612		
59614		
59618		
59620		
59622		