Extending Postpartum Coverage

Additional Analysis on Mandatory vs. Optional Approaches

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Martha Heberlein
Overview

• Recap of decisions from the October meeting
• Key considerations
• Remaining issues
• Next steps
October Decisions

• Extend the postpartum period for 12 continuous months
• Mirror the recommendation in the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
• Reiterate March 2014 recommendation requiring full Medicaid benefits for pregnancy-related eligibility pathways
Key Considerations: Health Equity

• Significant racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes exist
  – Black and Indigenous women have higher pregnancy-related death rates and risks of morbidity
  – Women of color are more likely to give birth to a preterm or low-birthweight infant

• Disparities in coverage contribute to these poor outcomes


December 10, 2020
Key Considerations: Coverage

• Of the 441,000 uninsured new mothers, 123,000 would become eligible for Medicaid or CHIP through a postpartum coverage extension.

• Almost 37 percent of Black, 36 percent of white, and 24 percent of Hispanic uninsured new mothers would become eligible.

• Uninsured new mothers who would become eligible are concentrated in several states.

Sources: Johnston et al. forthcoming.
Key Considerations: Continuity

• Extending the postpartum coverage period would avoid disruptions during a critical clinical period
• The experience at the end of the postpartum period would differ depending on whether an individual is insured and the source of coverage
Remaining Issues: Mandatory or Optional

• An optional extension would allow states to extend the period without a waiver but likely would not be adopted in all states

• A mandatory extension would ensure that postpartum women receive coverage for an extended period regardless of where they live

• Regardless of approach, state variation in coverage would continue
Remaining Issues: Financing

• An extension could result in increased state spending
  – Budget constraints due to COVID-19 could make it more challenging
• The Commission may want to consider increased federal support
• There may be offsetting costs due to reductions in future spending and improved outcomes
Next Steps

• Discuss remaining decision points
• January meeting
  – Review draft chapter
  – Vote on package of recommendations
Extending Postpartum Coverage

Additional Analysis on Mandatory vs. Optional Approaches

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Martha Heberlein