



Expansion of Lactation Service Coverage

Consistent with new requirements established for NYS Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) plans (including mainstream MMC plans, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Special Needs Plans (HIV-SNPs), and Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs)), Healthfirst has expanded lactation services coverage under those plans to include reimbursement eligibility for providers certified by nationally recognized accrediting agencies.

Lactation counseling services offer support, advice, and guidance to new mothers who chose to breastfeed. These services include help with painful nipples, milk supply, breastfeeding positions, and other common nursing problems.

Lactation counseling services are offered for eligible mothers enrolled in the following plans:

- Medicaid (MMC)
- Personal Wellness Plan (PWP/HARP)

Eligibility

A providers must be licensed as a **physician, midwife (MW), nurse practitioner (NP), physician assistant (PA), or registered nurse (RN)**, **and** certified by a nationally recognized accrediting agency, as listed below:

- International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
- Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS)
- Certified Breastfeeding Specialist (CBS)
- Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC)
- Certified Lactation Educator (CLE)
- Certified Clinical Lactationist (CCL)
- Certified Breastfeeding Educator (CBE)

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Reimbursement

Licensed providers who are eligible to offer lactation counseling services may bill using the following (HCPCS) Procedure Codes:

Lactation Counseling Procedure Codes	
S9445	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Description: Patient Education, Not Otherwise Classified, Non-physician provider, Individual, Per Session.■ Benefit Limitations: The initial lactation counseling session should be a minimum of 45 minutes. Follow-up session(s) should be a minimum of 30 minutes each and occur within the 12-month period immediately following delivery.■ Preferred DX Codes: Z39.1 Encounter for care and examination of lactating mother.
S9446	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Description: Patient Education, Not Otherwise Classified, Non-physician provider, Group, Per Session.■ Benefit Limitations: Up to a maximum of eight participants in a group session, with a 60-minute minimum session length. One prenatal and one postpartum class, per recipient, per pregnancy.■ Preferred DX Codes: Z39.1 Encounter for care and examination of lactating mother.

Member Accessibility

Licensed providers who either hold or gain the certifications indicated above should notify Healthfirst that they offer lactation services. This can be done by informing their Healthfirst network representative or by directly indicating lactation as their specialty within the provider roster. **Providers who employ a RN who holds the certifications indicated above are eligible to bill for lactation services but will not be included in the provider directory at this time.** This will allow Healthfirst to indicate that lactation services offered by the provider will be displayed in the Healthfirst directory and be visible to our members.

Provider Alert

Resources

For more information about the NYS Lactation Services benefit expansion, please refer to the following resources:

- Fee-for-service (FFS) claim questions should be directed to the eMedNY Call Center at **1-800-343-9000**.
- FFS coverage and policy questions should be directed to the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) Division of Program Development and Management (DPDM) by telephone at **1-518-473-2160** or by email at FFSMedicaidPolicy@health.ny.gov.
- MMC Plan contact information can be found in the eMedNY New York State Medicaid Program. Information for All Providers Managed Care Information document at emedny.org.