



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12|06|2011  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 09|21|2022

### OVERVIEW

This policy documents Blue Cross & Blue Shield's (BCBSRI) coverage and payment guidelines related to home births.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

- Credentialing:  
Participating providers must notify BCBSRI and be credentialed specifically for home births and carry liability insurance which must include coverage for home births.
- Coverage:
  1. The following services are covered:
    - a. Home Births services are covered, including routine antenatal, delivery, and postpartum care
  2. All of the following services are not covered and are member liability:
    - a. Additional prenatal counseling sessions or prenatal evaluation/management services specifically related to home birth.
    - b. Any equipment, supplies including emergency kits, and/or services specifically due to home birth.
    - c. Charges related to prolonged personal attendance.
    - d. Home modifications.
    - e. Standby Services such as: supplies, equipment, support personnel, or ambulance.
  3. Member transfer to facility for delivery:
    - a. Home birth provider will be paid for attending labor in the home prior to transfer but not for attendance in the ambulance; and
    - b. Delivery services will be paid only to the provider who delivers the child; and
    - c. If during attendance at labor it is determined that the patient must be transferred to a facility and another clinician performs the delivery service, BCBSRI will cover up to one E/M service in the home and up to 3 additional hours of prolonged services with direct care if provided.
- Billing:
  1. All global maternity policies apply.
  2. The following provider services are not payable by BCBSRI and are not member liability:
    - a. Provider may not bill prenatal care when another provider is also billing prenatal services for the same period; and
    - b. No additional prenatal Evaluation and Management services related to high-risk pregnancies for home birth patients will be covered as home births are expected to be uncomplicated.

## COVERAGE

Benefits may vary. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement for applicable maternity benefits/coverage.

## BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

## CODING

Not applicable.

## RELATED POLICIES

High Risk Pregnancy Services  
Doula Maternity Services

## PUBLISHED

Provider Update, November 2022  
Provider Update, April 2020  
Provider Update, December 2018  
Provider Update, February 2018

## REFERENCES

1. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Issues Opinion on Planned Home Births. April 2017. Accessed on February 3, 2020: <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Planned-Home-Birth>

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