



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
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# Global Commitment Register

September 7, 2023

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GCR 23-041  
FINAL

## **Vermont Medicaid Postpartum Eligibility Expansion**

### **Policy Summary:**

The Vermont Medicaid program expanded the postpartum eligibility period for pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries from 60 days to 12 months from the end of pregnancy. It also expanded the continuous eligibility requirement for Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant or in the postpartum period to disregard certain changes in circumstances, in addition to income changes, during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The continued eligibility of Medicaid for 12 months after the end of a pregnancy will improve the stability of health insurance coverage for people in the postpartum period, which is expected to improve maternal health outcomes.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 made this expansion a temporary option for state Medicaid agencies. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 made this expansion a permanent option for Medicaid agencies that elect it. On August 11, 2023, Vermont Medicaid received approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of a state plan amendment (SPA #23-0004) to elect this option. The expansion was effective April 1, 2023.

Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant or in the postpartum period are eligible for full Medicaid benefits. This includes coverage of dental services without the annual cap on dental expenditures and coverage of all medically necessary services on the dental fee schedule as medically necessary. This is more expansive than the Medicaid adult dental benefit. [The Vermont Medicaid Dental Supplement](#) outlines dental coverage during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Copayments are never required from Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant or in the postpartum eligibility period. [Information on copayments](#) can be found on the Department of Vermont Health Access website. The change to extend exemption from copayments to beneficiaries in the 12-month extended postpartum period was submitted to CMS as SPA # 23-0029.

### **Effective Date:**

April 1, 2023

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2 )  
Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Pub. L. No. 117-328)

[Health Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment Rule 7.03\(a\)\(2\)  
Medicaid State Plan](#)

**Population Affected:**

Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant or within 12 months of their pregnancy ending.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$2.6 million.

**Public Comment Period:**

The public comment period ended April 27, 2023. [Comments received can be viewed here.](#)

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to [AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov).

**Additional Information:**

The [approved SPA 23-0004 can be viewed here](#) on Medicaid.gov.

The [approved SPA 23-0029 can be viewed here](#) on Medicaid.gov.