

March 17, 2022

## Postpartum Care Extension for Members Receiving Services

Dear providers,

Starting April 1, 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will expand the postpartum care period for individuals receiving pregnancy-related and postpartum care services. The care period will be extended an additional ten months, following the current 60-day postpartum period, for a total of 12 months.

**What does this change mean, and why is it happening?** This update is in response to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will fully replace the current Provisional Postpartum Care Extension (PPCE) that went into effect on August 1, 2020. The PPCE was set to expire on March 31, 2022.

**More on PPCE:** Under PPCE, if a Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) eligible individual is diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition (including, but not limited to, postpartum depression) during their pregnancy, postpartum period, or within 90 days from the end of the postpartum period, **the individual may remain eligible in their current Medi-Cal or MCAP eligibility category for up to one year** following the last day of the individual's pregnancy. Previously this eligibility was limited to 60 days.

### Read more about PPCE:

[files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom\\_30223\\_01.aspx](https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_30223_01.aspx)

This extended coverage period will now include full-scope Medi-Cal benefits during both the pregnancy and postpartum periods regardless of citizenship status or income changes. To learn more about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Postpartum Care Extension (PCE), please visit: [filessysdev.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/preg/pregnancy\\_landing.aspx](https://filessysdev.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/preg/pregnancy_landing.aspx)

For questions, please contact our Provider Services department at [PSInquiries@hpsm.org](mailto:PSInquiries@hpsm.org).

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community,  
The Health Plan of San Mateo