



# REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

## Georgia Medicaid

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Obstetrical Care-Total Cost-GA MCD-PY-0231	04/01/2026
Policy Type	
<b>REIMBURSEMENT</b>	

Reimbursement Policies prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry-standard claims editing logic, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing Reimbursement Policies.

In addition to this Policy, Reimbursement of services is subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization, notification and utilization management guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any federal or state coverage mandate, Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

This Policy does not ensure an authorization or Reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced herein. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination. CareSource and its affiliates may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this Policy to services provided in a particular case and may modify this Policy at any time.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

### Table of Contents

A.	Subject .....	2
B.	Background .....	2
C.	Definitions.....	2
D.	Policy .....	2
E.	Conditions of Coverage .....	5
F.	Related Policies/Rules .....	6
G.	Review/Revision History .....	6
H.	References .....	7

## A. Subject

### **Obstetrical Care – Total Cost**

## B. Background

Obstetrical care is health care treatment provided in relation to pregnancy and delivery of a newborn child, including care during the prenatal period, labor, birthing, and the postpartum period. CareSource covers obstetrical services members receive in a hospital or birthing center, as well all associated outpatient services. The services provided must be appropriate to the specific medical needs of the member. Determination of medical necessity is the responsibility of the qualified provider.

## C. Definitions

- **High Risk Delivery** – Labor management and delivery for an unstable or critically ill pregnant patient.
- **Initial and Prenatal Visit** – Practitioner visit to determine if member is pregnant.
- **Pregnancy** – For the purpose of this policy, pregnancy begins on the date of the initial visit in which pregnancy was confirmed and extends for 280 days.
- **Premature Birth** – Delivery before 37 weeks of pregnancy.
- **Prenatal Profile** – Initial laboratory services.

## D. Policy

### I. Obstetrical Care

#### A. Initial visit and prenatal profile

1. The initial visit and prenatal profile are reimbursed separately from other obstetrical care. These are to be billed immediately after first contact.
2. Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes are utilized when services are provided to diagnose the pregnancy. These are not part of antepartum care.

#### B. Total obstetrical care for uncomplicated care provided to the member including antepartum, delivery, and postpartum care

1. The member must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Member is eligible for Medicaid for the duration of pregnancy
  - b. Member is cared for by one practitioner or group practice for the antepartum care, delivery, and postpartum care, and
2. The attending physician is designated in the medical record with services billed under that practitioner tax identification number.
3. Billing for total obstetrical care cannot be submitted until the date of delivery.
4. Total obstetrical care cannot be billed for a delivery of less than 20 weeks gestation.
5. Total obstetrical care codes are as follows:
  - a. A corresponding obstetrical diagnosis with outcome of birth must be listed on the claim. An ICD-10 code from category Z34 should be listed as the first diagnosis for routine obstetric care.

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

b. Reimbursement is provided for 1 of the following codes per pregnancy:

Codes	Description
59400	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps) and postpartum care
59610	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps and postpartum care), after previous cesarean delivery
59510	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum
59618	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum care, following attempted vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery

6. Modifiers

- a. Modifier UB, UC, or UD must be appended to the billed delivery procedure code, or the delivery claim will be denied.
- b. Deliveries with modifiers UB or UD must show medical necessity, and medical documentation may be requested.
- c. Related modifiers (not all-inclusive):

Modifier	Description
22	To support substantial additional work. Documentation must be submitted with the claim demonstrating the reason and the additional work provided.
52	To indicate reduced services i.e. patient begins antepartum care late in pregnancy.
UB	Medically-necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation.
UC	Delivery at 39 weeks of gestation or later.
UD	Non-medically necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation (Elective non-medically necessary deliveries less than 39 weeks gestation)

7. Services (not all-inclusive):

Services included that may NOT be billed separately	Services excluded and therefore may be billed separately
Admission history	Greater than 13 antepartum visits due to high-risk condition
Admission to hospital	Complications of pregnancy
Artificial rupture of membranes	Surgical complications or other problems related to pregnancy

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Care provided for an uncomplicated pregnancy including delivery as well as antepartum and postpartum	Cephalic version
Cesarean delivery	Ultrasonography
Cesarean delivery following an unsuccessful vaginal delivery attempt after previous cesarean delivery	Fetal nonstress test
Classic cesarean section	Maternal or fetal echography
Each month up to 28 weeks gestation	Fetal echocardiography procedures
Every other week from 29 to 36 weeks gestation	Fetal biophysical profile
Fetal heart tones	Amniocentesis, any method
Hospital/office visits following cesarean section or vaginal delivery	Chorionic villus sampling, any method
Initial/subsequent history	Fetal contraction stress test
Low cervical cesarean section	Hospital and observation care visits for premature labor prior to 36 weeks of gestation
Management of uncomplicated labor	High risk pregnancies requiring more visits or more laboratory data
Physical Exams	Conditions unrelated to pregnancy i.e., hypertension, glucose intolerance
Recording of weight/blood pressures	Treatment and management of complications during the postpartum period that require additional services
Routine chemical urinalysis	Laboratory tests outside of routine chemical urinalysis
Routine prenatal visits	Cordocentesis
Successful vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery	OB ultrasounds
Patients with previous cesarean delivery who present with the expectation of a vaginal delivery	RH immune globulin administration
Vaginal delivery with or without episiotomy or forceps	
Weekly from 36 weeks until delivery	

II. Multiple gestations

- A. Diagnosis code(s) for multiple gestations must be included.

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- B. Total obstetrical care billing for multiple gestations should include 1 procedure code and a “delivery only” code for each subsequent delivery with the appropriate diagnosis code and modifier for the multiple gestations.
  - C. When all deliveries are performed by a cesarean section, only a single cesarean delivery code is to be reported regardless of how many cesarean births.
  - D. Modifier 22 may be added to support substantial additional work. Documentation must be submitted with the claim demonstrating the reason and the additional work provided.
- III. High risk pregnancy and delivery
- A. For high risk pregnancy, claims for prenatal outpatient visits should be reported with the appropriate ICD-10 category code O09 diagnosis, including the appropriate trimester
  - B. Modifier 22 may be added to the delivery code to support substantial additional work. Documentation must be submitted with the claim demonstrating the reason and the additional work provided.
- E. Conditions of Coverage

In the event of any conflict between this policy and a provider’s contract with CareSource, the provider’s contract will be the governing document.

Reimbursement policies are designed to assist providers when submitting claims to CareSource. They are routinely updated to promote accurate coding and provide policy clarification. These proprietary policies are not a guarantee of payment. The inclusion of a code in this policy does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee of claims payment. Reimbursement for claims may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications. Reimbursement will be established based upon a review of the actual services provided to a member and will be determined when the claim is received for processing.

Submission of claims for reimbursement will serve as the provider’s certification of medical necessity for these services. Proper billing and submission guidelines must be followed, including the use of industry standard, compliant codes on all claims submissions. Services should be billed using Current Procedure Terminology (CPT®) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. The codes denote services and/or the procedure performed. The billed codes are required to be fully supported in the medical record. Unless otherwise noted, this policy applies to only participating provider and facilities.

Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting approved HCPCS and CPT® codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable. Please refer to the individual fee schedule for appropriate codes.

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

- The following list(s) of codes is provided as a reference. This list may not be all inclusive and is subject to updates.

<b>Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
59400	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps) and postpartum care
59610	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy, and/or forceps and postpartum care), after previous cesarean delivery
59510	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum
59618	Routine obstetric care including antepartum care, cesarean delivery, and postpartum care, following attempted vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery.
<b>Modifiers</b>	<b>Description</b>
22	To support substantial additional work. Documentation must be submitted with the claim demonstrating the reason and the additional work provided.
51	To indicate that a second and any subsequent vaginal births occurred identifying multiple procedures were performed
52	To indicate reduced services i.e. patient begins antepartum care late in pregnancy.
59	Distinct procedural services
UB	Medically necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation
UC	Delivery at 39 weeks of gestation or later
UD	Non-medically necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation (Elective non-medically necessary deliveries less than 39 weeks gestation)

F. Related Policies/Rules  
Obstetrical Care-Unbundled Cost

G. Review/Revision History

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Date Issued</b>	07/01/2017	New Policy.
<b>Date Revised</b>	04/01/2020	New title – used to be Global Obstetrical Services – policy broken into two policies. Updated definitions, reorganized topics, removed unbundled information, updated most content, included modifiers and updated codes.
	10/26/2022	Periodic review. Editorial changes and reference updates only.

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	11/06/2024	Periodic review. Updated references. Approved at Committee.
	12/03/2025	Periodic review. Updated conditions of coverage and references. Approved at Committee.
<b>Date Effective</b>	04/01/2026	
<b>Date Archived</b>		

H. References

1. ACOG Committee Opinion no. 579: definition of a term pregnancy. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2013; 122(5):e1139-e1140. Reaffirmed 2025. doi:10.1097/01.AOG.0000437385.88715.4a
2. ACOG Committee Opinion no. 736: optimizing postpartum care. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2018;131(5):e140-e150. Reaffirmed 2025. doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000002633
3. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Preterm labor and birth. Updated April 2023. Accessed November 12, 2025. www.acog.org
4. Division of Population Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Preterm birth. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. November 8, 2024. Accessed November 11, 2025. www.cdc.gov
5. *Policies and Procedures for Physician Services.* Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Medicaid; 2025. Accessed November 11, 2025. www.mmis.georgia.gov
6. Reardon CC, Chen F. Critical illness during pregnancy and the peripartum period. UpToDate. Updated December 5, 2024. Accessed November 17, 2025. www.uptodate.com