

November 2024



### **Arizona Now Offering Group Prenatal Care Coverage**

The Centering Healthcare Institute is pleased to announce that the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is now offering a group prenatal care reimbursement at \$45 enhanced payment for up to 10 visits per patient per session. This change is effective October 1, 2024. CHI commends Arizona's current efforts in improving maternal health through their various initiatives.

CHI is a non-profit organization that works closely with health care providers from all sectors to change healthcare, especially regarding improving outcomes related to mothers, babies, and families. CHI started when our founder, a certified nurse midwife, Sharon Rising, wanted to provide more effective prenatal care by bringing birthing people together for their visits. With over two decades of experience as the go-to resource for group care, we have developed and sustained the Centering model in nearly 400 practice sites and in some of the largest health systems in the world. Currently, the state of Arizona has two CP sites and we would like to see this number grow to better the health outcomes of birthing people.

[CenteringPregnancy® \(CP\)](#) is an evidence-based, patient-centered model following nationally-recognized guidelines that leads to better care, better health outcomes, and lower cost. CP health outcomes are aligned with the MISP efforts to improve maternal and infant outcomes and leads to greater engagement, learning and self-confidence, and higher satisfaction with the prenatal care among patients. CP decreases the rate of preterm and low weight babies, increases breastfeeding rates, leads to better pregnancy spacing, and has been shown to nearly eliminate racial disparities in preterm birth by creating an environment where social and economic factors that impact health are identified and addressed.

CP involves a significant shift in the model and schedule of prenatal care because it replaces traditional individual appointments, rather than being overlaid on them like care management visits or some other prenatal care enhancements, thereby presenting opportunities for alignment with alternative payment models.

Resources:

- [Arizona Medicaid Policy Manual: AMPM Policy 410- Maternity Care Services](#)  
(October 29, 2024)