



Missouri Now Offering Group Prenatal Care Coverage

The Centering Healthcare Institute is pleased to announce that the state of Missouri and the Missouri HealthNet Division (MHD) is now offering group prenatal care coverage at a per-patient, per-session rate of \$40 effective **December 1, 2023**. We are delighted that Missouri has taken this step to reduce disparities and improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes, especially for Black birthing people.

[Missouri's Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review](#) board published a report in 2023 that found that between 2018 and 2020, 210 people died while pregnant or within a year of pregnancy. Additionally, Black women experienced pregnancy-related death at a rate of three times higher than white women. We would like to thank the Missouri Department of Social Services, MO HealthNet Division and Director, Todd Richardson, Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, Affinia Healthcare and St. Louis Integrated Health Network for leading this effort.

CHI is a non-profit organization that works closely with healthcare providers from all sectors to change healthcare, especially regarding improving outcomes relating 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 **500 practice sites** and in some of the largest health systems in the world. Currently, the state of Missouri has three CenteringPregnancy® sites and we would like to see this number grow to better the health outcomes of birthing people.

[CenteringPregnancy](#) is an evidence-based, patient-centered model following nationally-recognized guidelines that leads to better care, better health outcomes, and lower cost. CenteringPregnancy health outcomes are aligned with the MISP efforts to improve maternal and infant outcomes and lead to greater engagement, learning, self-confidence and higher satisfaction with prenatal care among patients.

Research has shown that CenteringPregnancy may decrease the rate of preterm and low-weight babies, increase breastfeeding rates, lead to better pregnancy spacing and has been

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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.

CenteringPregnancy 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. This thereby presents opportunities for alignment with alternative payment models.

Resources:

- [Pregnancy is deadlier if you're Black. Missouri wants to shrink maternal mortality rates](#) (January 2024)
- [Group Prenatal Care Provider Bulletin](#) (December 2023)
- [A multi-year look at maternal mortality in Missouri, 2018-2020 Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review](#) (2023)
- [MU Health Care Group Prenatal Care](#)
- [Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review \(PAMR\)](#)
- [Group Prenatal Care Billing](#) (February 2024)