

May 2024



North Carolina Now Offering Group Prenatal Care Coverage

The Centering Healthcare Institute is pleased to announce that the North Carolina Medicaid Division of Health Benefits is now offering a group prenatal care reimbursement of \$250 per group, to be billed on or after the fifth group session. This change is effective **July 1, 2023**, and clinics may bill retroactively.

We want to thank the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Department of Health Benefits (DHB) for developing this additional reimbursement for group prenatal care, and Governor Cooper and the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force 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 North Carolina has 24 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 costs. CenteringPregnancy health outcomes are aligned with the MISP efforts to improve maternal and infant outcomes, leading 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 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

May 2024

care management visits or some other prenatal care enhancements. This thereby presents opportunities for alignment with **alternative payment models**.

Resources:

- [Maternity Coverage and Service Reimbursement Updates](#) (October 27, 2023)
- [NC Medicaid Obstetrical Services Clinical Coverage Policy](#) (Amended April 1, 2024)
- [Changes to the 1E-5 Obstetrical Services Policy Effective April 1, 2024](#) (April 16, 2024)
- [North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report](#) (April 2024)