



Doula Services Explained

A doula provides support to you while you are pregnant and after your baby is born.

The Department of Health started a Doula Pilot Program. In this program, Medicaid will pay for doulas for pregnant members who live in Erie County. You must have New York State (NYS) Medicaid, and you must choose a doula who accepts NYS Medicaid. Medicaid will pay for a certain number of visits by your doula.

Medicaid will pay for four (4) visits with your doula before you give birth. A doula can help you plan for your baby. Doulas can help you communicate with your medical team. Doulas can explain feeding options for your baby. They can also talk to you about the items that your baby and you will need.

Medicaid will pay for your doula to be with you when you are in labor and when you deliver. Doulas can comfort and support you during this time. Doulas can help you communicate with your medical team.

Medicaid will pay for four (4) visits with your doula after you give birth. A doula can give you guidance on how to care for your baby. They can also help with light cleaning.

Doulas are not medical staff. They cannot give any type of medical advice or care.

All women who had a doula will be asked to give feedback on the program. You will receive two surveys in the mail after you give birth. Your answers will help the Department of Health learn about the doula program. Your survey answers are important to the Department of Health. The surveys are voluntary.

More information on the Doula Pilot Program can be found on the Department of Health's website at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/doulapilot/