



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Marvin B. Figueroa
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

June 8, 2026

Todd McMillion
Director
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
233 North Michigan Ave., Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. McMillion:

Attached for your review and approval is amendment 26-006, entitled "Updates to Doula Coverage" to the Plan for Medical Assistance for the Commonwealth. I request that your office approve this change as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within an oval border. The signature appears to be "M. B. Figueroa".

Marvin B. Figueroa

Attachment

cc: Steve Ford, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services

CMS, Region III

Transmittal Summary

SPA 26-006

I. IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Title of Amendment: Updates to Doula Coverage

II. SYNOPSIS

Basis and Authority: The Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, § 32.1-325, grants to the Board of Medical Assistance Services the authority to administer and amend the Plan for Medical Assistance. The Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, § 32.1-324, authorizes the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to administer and amend the Plan for Medical Assistance according to the Board's requirements.

Doulas provide support during pregnancy and birth, as well as in the postpartum period. DMAS covers doula services as part of an effort to reduce maternal and infant mortality and an effort to reduce health disparities. Currently, Virginia's state plan covers up to eight prenatal/postpartum visits (four prenatal and four postpartum), birth attendance, and allows members to receive doula services up to six months postpartum. The state plan also covers up to two value-based linkage-to-care payments for postpartum and newborn care.

Purpose: This SPA will amend the State Plan to include up to 10 doula visits, with up to four visits during pregnancy and up to six visits in the 12 months postpartum, with additional visits permitted if such visits are deemed medically necessary. This is in accordance with HB 838 of the 2026 General Assembly that codifies the Virginia Medicaid community doula benefit to include up to ten visits (four prenatal and six postpartum) in the twelve months postpartum, support during labor and delivery, and up to two value-based linkage-to-care payments for postpartum and newborn care.

Substance and Analysis: The section of the State Plan that is affected by this amendment is "Amount, Duration, and Scope of Medical and Remedial Care and Services Provided to the Categorically Needy and Medically Needy" and "Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rate – Other Types of Care."

Impact: None.

Tribal Notice: Please see attached

Prior Public Notice: See Attached.

Public Comments and Agency Analysis: DMAS received one comment indicating that the changes were too vague and that they were not in favor of the SPA. DMAS thoroughly considered the comment submitted and has decided to proceed with the SPA without any changes.

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Outlook

Tribal Notice – Updates to Doula Coverage

From Lee, Meredith (DMAS) <Meredith.Lee@dmass.virginia.gov>**Date** Fri 5/29/2026 9:45 AM

To TribalOffice@MonacanNation.com <TribalOffice@monacannation.com>; Ann Richardson <chiefannerich@aol.com>; Pamelathompson4@yahoo.com <Pamelathompson4@yahoo.com>; rappahannocktrib@aol.com <rappahannocktrib@aol.com>; regstew007@gmail.com <regstew007@gmail.com>; Richard.matens@pamunkey.org <Richard.matens@pamunkey.org>; chief@monacannation.gov <chief@monacannation.gov>; chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>; bradbybrown@gmail.com <bradbybrown@gmail.com>; tabitha.garrett@ihs.gov <tabitha.garrett@ihs.gov>; kara.kearns@ihs.gov <kara.kearns@ihs.gov>; administrator@nansemond.gov <administrator@nansemond.gov>; info@afwellness.com <info@afwellness.com>; info@fishingpointhc.com <info@fishingpointhc.com>; contact@Nansemond.gov <contact@Nansemond.gov>; brandon.custalow@mattaponination.com <brandon.custalow@mattaponination.com>; admin@umitribe.org <admin@umitribe.org>; lorraine.reels-pearson@ihs.gov <lorraine.reels-pearson@ihs.gov>; remedios.holmes@ihs.gov <remedios.holmes@ihs.gov>; lindsey.taylor@ihs.gov <lindsey.taylor@ihs.gov>; joni.lyon@ihs.gov <joni.lyon@ihs.gov>; Howard, Joanne <Joanne.howard@cit-ed.org>; Chief@Nansemond.gov <Chief@Nansemond.gov>; AssistantChief@Nansemond.gov <AssistantChief@Nansemond.gov>; Tupponce, Steven <steven.tupponce@umithealth.com>; owen.adams@umitribe.gov <owen.adams@umitribe.gov>; Jennifer.Floor@ihs.gov <Jennifer.Floor@ihs.gov>

1 attachment (168 KB)

DMAS Director Steve Ford approved and signed 05.29.2026 - Tribal_Notice_Letter_v2 (1).pdf;

Dear Tribal Leaders and Indian Health Programs:

Attached is a Tribal Notice letter from Virginia Medicaid Director Steve Ford indicating that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) plans to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to include up to 10 doula visits, with up to four visits during pregnancy and up to six visits in the 12 months postpartum, with additional visits permitted if such visits are deemed medically necessary. This is in accordance with HB 838 of the 2026 General Assembly that codifies the Virginia Medicaid community doula benefit to include up to ten visits (four prenatal and six postpartum) in the twelve months postpartum, support during labor and delivery, and up to two value-based linkage-to-care payments for postpartum and newborn care.

If you would like a copy of the SPA documents or proposed text changes, or if you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you! -- Meredith Lee

Meredith Lee
 Policy, Regulations, and Manuals Supervisor
 Policy Division
 Department of Medical Assistance Services
meredith.lee@dmass.virginia.gov, (804) 371-0552
 Hours: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm (Monday-Friday)

www.dmas.virginia.gov



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

STEVE FORD
DIRECTOR

SUITE 1300
600 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219
804/786-7933
800/343-0634 (TDD)
www.dmas.virginia.gov

05/29/2026

SUBJECT: Notice of Opportunity for Tribal Comment – State Plan Amendment related to Updates to Doula Coverage.

Dear Tribal Leader and Indian Health Programs:

This letter is to notify you that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is planning to amend the Virginia State Plan for Medical Assistance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifically, DMAS is providing you notice about a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that the Agency will file with CMS in order to include up to 10 doula visits, with up to four visits during pregnancy and up to six visits in the 12 months postpartum, with additional visits permitted if such visits are deemed medically necessary.

This is in accordance with HB 838 of the 2026 General Assembly that codifies the Virginia Medicaid community doula benefit to include up to ten visits (four prenatal and six postpartum) in the twelve months postpartum, support during labor and delivery, and up to two value-based linkage-to-care payments for postpartum and newborn care. Currently, Virginia's state plan covers up to eight prenatal/postpartum visits (four prenatal and four postpartum) and birth attendance and allows members to receive doula services up to six months postpartum.

We realize that the changes in this SPA may impact Medicaid members and providers, including tribal members and providers. Therefore, we encourage you to let us know if you have any comments or questions. The tribal comment period for this SPA is open through June 28, 2026. You may submit your comments directly to Meredith Lee, DMAS Policy Division, by phone (804) 371-0552, or via email: Meredith.Lee@dmas.virginia.gov. Finally, if you prefer regular mail you may send your comments or questions to:

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
Attn: Meredith Lee
600 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ford".

Steve Ford
Director



Department of Planning and Budget
An official website [Here's how you know](#) ▼



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REGULATORY TOWN HALL

Agency

Department of Medical Assistance Services

Board

Board of Medical Assistance Services

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General Notice

Public Notice- Intent to Amend State Plan - Updates to Doula Coverage

Date Posted: 5/29/2026

Expiration Date: 11/29/2026

Submitted to Registrar for publication: YES

[30 Day Comment Forum](#) is underway. Began on 5/29/2026 and will end on 6/28/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES
NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND**

(Pursuant to §1902(a)(13) of the *Act* (U.S.C. 1396a(a)(13))

THE VIRGINIA STATE PLAN FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

This Notice was posted on May 29, 2026

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) hereby affords the public notice of its intention to amend the Virginia State Plan for Medical Assistance to provide for changes to the *Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rates — Other Types of Care* (12 VAC 30-80).

This notice is intended to satisfy the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 447.205 and of § 1902(a)(13) of the *Social Security Act*, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(13). A copy of this notice is available for public review from Meredith Lee, DMAS, 600 Broad Street, Suite 1300, Richmond, VA 23219, or via e-mail at: Meredith.Lee@dmass.virginia.gov.

DMAS is specifically soliciting input from stakeholders, providers and beneficiaries, on the potential impact of the proposed changes discussed in this notice. Comments or inquiries may be submitted, in writing, within 30 days of this notice publication to Meredith Lee and such comments are available for review at the same address. Comments may also be submitted, in writing, on the Town Hall public comment forum attached to this notice.

This notice is available for public review on the Regulatory Town Hall (<https://townhall.virginia.gov>) on the General Notices page, found at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/generalnotice.cfm>

Methods & Standards for Establishing Payment Rates-Other Types of Care (12 VAC 30-80)

The state plan is being revised to include up to 10 doula visits, with up to four visits during pregnancy and up to six visits in the 12 months postpartum, with additional visits permitted if such visits are deemed medically necessary. This is in accordance with HB 838 of the 2026 General Assembly that codifies the Virginia Medicaid community doula benefit to include up to ten visits (four prenatal and six postpartum) in the twelve months postpartum, support during labor and delivery, and up to two value-based linkage-to-care payments for postpartum and newborn care.

There are no expected increases or decreases in annual fee-for-service aggregate expenditures in federal fiscal year 2026 or federal fiscal year 2027.

Contact Information

Name / Title:	Meredith Lee / <i>Policy Supervisor</i>
Address:	600 E. Broad St., Suite 1300 Richmond, 23219
Email Address:	<u>Meredith.Lee@dmass.virignia.gov</u>
Telephone:	(804)371-0552 FAX: (804)786-1680 TDD: (800)343-0634

This general notice was created by Meredith Lee on 05/29/2026 at 7:11am



Department of Planning and Budget
An official website [Here's how you know](#) ▼

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Public comment forums

Make your voice heard! Public comment forums allow all Virginia's citizens to participate in making and changing our state regulations.

[See our Public Comment Policy](#)

Currently showing **15** comment forums closed within the last 21 days

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Board of Medical Assistance Services		
View Comments	Public Notice- Intent to Amend State Plan - Updates to Doula Coverage	General Notice Public Notice- Intent to Amend State Plan - Updates to Doula Coverage Closed: 6/28/26 1 comments Last comment: 6/24/26 10:44 pm

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

**AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL
AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY
and MEDICALLY NEEDY**

Doula Services

Doula services will be used to provide support for pregnant individuals throughout the perinatal period, which may improve birth-related outcomes. Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. Section 440.130(c), doula services are provided as preventive services and must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within his or her scope of practice under state law to prevent perinatal complications and/or promote the physical and mental health of the beneficiary.

Service Description:

Virginia intends to provide doula services for pregnant individuals during ~~pregnancy~~ the prenatal period, childbirth and the postpartum period. Doulas support the pregnant individual throughout the pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum experience, with the goal of improving outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Doulas offer support, guidance, evidence-based education, practical support during childbirth, and linkages to community-based resources. Service components include:

- Perinatal support services, including newborn care, to prevent adverse outcomes;
- Labor support; and
- Coordination with community-based services, to improve beneficiary outcomes

Qualified Provider Specifications:

Doula services shall be provided by qualified individuals who are at least 18 years of age. Doulas must:

- Complete doula training, which must include core competencies (perinatal support services, labor support), community-based/cultural competency training, and care coordination. Doula trainings must be approved by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH); and
- Be certified by a state certifying entity designated by VDH.

Limits:

- Any service limits may be exceeded based upon medical necessity.
- Service authorization is required if more than ~~eight prenatal/postpartum~~ four prenatal visits and/or more than six postpartum visits during the 12 months after birth are required, ~~and if services are required more than six months after delivery.~~

TN No. 21-013

Approval Date 10/28/2021

Effective Date 1-1-2022

Supersedes

TN No. New Page

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

**METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATE -
OTHER TYPES OF CARE****Doula Services**

Doula services may be reimbursed from the date of confirmed conception through ~~180 days (six months)~~ 12 months after delivery, contingent on the client maintaining Medicaid eligibility. Virginia will reimburse up to ~~8 prenatal/postpartum~~ 4 prenatal and up to 6 postpartum visits and attendance at birth. Any service limits may be exceeded based upon medical necessity. Service authorization is required if more than ~~eight~~ four prenatal visits prenatal/postpartum and/or more than six postpartum visits during the 12 months after birth are required, ~~and if services are required more than six months after delivery.~~

Each prenatal/postpartum service visit shall be billed and reimbursed separately. A unit of service is 15 minutes. An initial prenatal visit has a maximum unit capacity of six (6) units to account for assessment while all other visits have a maximum capacity of four (4) units.

During the postpartum period, an additional value-based incentive payment will be made if the Doula performs at least one (1) postpartum service visit and the client is seen by an obstetric clinician for one (1) postpartum visit after a labor and delivery claim. A second additional value-based incentive payment will be made if the Doula performs at least one (1) postpartum service visit (this may be the same postpartum visit used for the first value-based payment) and the newborn is seen by a pediatric clinician for one (1) visit after a labor and delivery claim.

The Agency's fee schedule rates for doula services are set as of January 1, 2022, and are effective for services on or after that date. The rates are the same for both governmental and private providers. All rates are published on the State's website at ~~<https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/general-information/procedure-fee-files-cpt-codes/>~~ <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/rates-and-rate-setting/procedure-fee-files-cpt-codes/>.

TN No. 21-013Approval Date 10/28/2021Effective Date 1-1-2022

Supersedes

TN No. New Page

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2. STATE

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT

XIX

XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY _____ \$ _____

b. FFY _____ \$ _____

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT *(If Applicable)*

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW *(Check One)*

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL



12. TYPED NAME

13. TITLE

14. DATE SUBMITTED

15. RETURN TO

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED

17. DATE APPROVED

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

22. REMARKS

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

**AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL
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- Be certified by a state certifying entity designated by VDH.

Limits:

- Any service limits may be exceeded based upon medical necessity.
- Service authorization is required if more than four prenatal visits and/or more than six postpartum visits during the 12 months after birth are required.

TN No. 26-0006

Approval Date _____

Effective Date 7-1-2026

Supersedes

TN No. 21-013

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATE - OTHER TYPES OF CARE

Doula Services

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TN No. 26-0006

Approval Date _____

Effective Date 7-1-2026

Supersedes

TN No. 21-013