

December 5, 2025

Standing Recommendation for Home Visiting Services for Young Child and Perinatal Illinois Medicaid Program Members

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is issuing a statewide standing recommendation for all Medical Assistance Program recipients in the perinatal period (pregnancy through 12 months postpartum regardless of pregnancy outcome) and children under age 5 to receive evidence-based and research-informed home visiting services from an HFS-enrolled provider.

Home Visiting professionals provide assessment, education, counseling, and support to perinatal women and infants. Access to this service is important for the well-being of postpartum medical assistance program customers. Studies show that “social and structural drivers of health are major contributors to maternal and neonatal outcomes, both directly and indirectly, through expanding access to critical evidence-based services.” (1, 2, 3).

Home Visiting is a covered medical assistance program benefit under Public Act 102-0004. The Home Visiting Program aims to improve access to quality maternal and infant healthcare services while increasing equitable birth outcomes statewide. Medicaid will provide coverage for evidence-based and research-informed Home Visiting services for nurse and non-nurse models.

Some examples of these models include the following:

Nurse Models:

- Family Connects
- Nurse Family Partnership

Non-Nurse Models:

- Healthy Families of America
- Parents as Teachers
- Early Head Start Home Based
- HIPPY
- BabyTalk
- Healthy Start

All nurse and non-nurse home visiting provider organizations must remain in good standing with their respective certifying bodies and provide services within their scope of practice and as defined in the selected evidence-based or research-informed Home Visiting model.

IMPORTANT: Standing Recommendation Must Be Documented:

Home Visiting providers who use this standing recommendation for Medical Assistance Program recipients should note the standing recommendation in their patient records.

This recommendation fulfills the federal requirements in section 440.130(c) of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations for a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law to provide a written recommendation for preventative services.

This recommendation remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

Sincerely,

Sameer Vohra

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA
Director, Illinois Department of Public Health

Works Cited

1. ACOG. (2025, May). Tailored Prenatal Care for Delivery for Pregnant Individuals: Clinical Consensus, No. 8.
2. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. National Academy of Sciences. (2019). Integrating social care into the delivery of health care: moving upstream to improve the nation's health.
3. Slaughter-Acey J, Behrens K, Claussen AM, Usset T, Neerland C, Bilal-Roby S, et al. Social and structural determinants of maternal morbidity and mortality: an evidence map. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 264. Accessed January 29, 2025. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK598895> Works Cited