

Timeliness of Prenatal & Postpartum Care (PPC)

Provider Tip Sheet

What is being measured?

The PPC measure examines access to care during and after pregnancy by assessing the percentage of pregnant women who received prenatal and postpartum care in a timely manner. It measures the percentage of pregnant women who received a prenatal care visit during the first trimester and the percentage of women who had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery.

Why is this measure important?

In North Carolina, 20% of mothers with Medicaid coverage experience inadequate prenatal care, and the rates of preterm birth and low birth weight are significantly higher than recommended by Healthy People 2020.¹ Prenatal care can help prevent complications and inform women about important steps they can take to protect their infant and ensure a healthy pregnancy.² After delivery, medical complications can occur; postpartum visits can address any adverse effects that giving birth had on a woman's body, such as persistent bleeding, inadequate iron levels, blood pressure, pain, emotional changes, and infections.³

Eligible Population

All pregnant members are eligible for this measure.

Medical Record Documentation

If visits are completed by a PCP (in lieu of OB/GYN), documentation must include a diagnosis of pregnancy (Z34).

Description	CPT Codes
Online Assessments	98969-98972, 99421-99423, 99444, 99457
Prenatal Visits	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99483
Stand-Alone Prenatal Visits	99500
Postpartum Visits	57170, 58300, 59430, 99501
Telephone Visits	98966-98968, 99441-99443

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Best Practices

- Ensure that the prenatal care visit is in the first trimester and the postpartum visit is completed 7-84 days after delivery.
- Ensure that a Notification of Pregnancy form has been completed and sent to the health plan.
- Prenatal visits must be completed by an OB/GYN, other prenatal care practitioner, or PCP.
- Use prenatal visits as an opportunity to discuss the mother's immunization record, educate member about vaccines, and complete other screenings (e.g., behavioral health, postpartum depression).

References

1. Urban Institute. (2023). [Perinatal Health among Medicaid Beneficiaries in North Carolina, 2018](#).
2. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2017). [What is prenatal care and why is it important?](#)
3. Department of Health Care Services of California (2023). [Prenatal and Postpartum Care—Postpartum Care](#).

Support

We are committed to the care and well-being of our members. We are also committed to working with you as a partner to develop the best possible treatment plans for all patients.

Please view the Provider section of our website at ambetterofnorthcarolina.com for additional tools and resources. You may also contact your [Provider Engagement Administrator](#) directly for support and education.

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