



MAKING PERINATAL CARE WORK IN MICHIGAN

Perinatal healthcare—the care a woman receives before pregnancy, during and after delivery—must be responsive to individual needs and preferences in order to best support healthy pregnancies and birth outcomes.

Several different types of care delivery methods have demonstrated evidence of improving outcomes while addressing the persistent racial disparities in maternal and infant health.

Innovative perinatal care focuses on equity, provides community-centered services and empowers families.

These perinatal care models should inform Medicaid policy and insurance coverage options to strengthen our state’s focus on promoting birth equity and preventing poor maternal/infant outcomes.

Policy considerations for implementing innovative perinatal care models:

- Modify insurance reimbursement, including Medicaid, to allow for and incentivize responsive models of care. Consider pilot efforts as needed to establish the demand for non-traditional models of care and monitor outcomes.
- Require coverage and distribution of blood pressure cuffs and fetal Dopplers to provide patients the ability to monitor and provide readings to practitioners during virtual medical appointments.
- Ensure equity of payment for virtual and traditional in-person patient encounters.
- License free-standing birth centers in Michigan to facilitate reimbursement and sustainability and ensure safety and standards of care while recognizing the unique value of centers built for and by the community.



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