

Resolution: Addressing our maternal mortality crisis- Extending Medicaid Coverage to 12-Months Postpartum

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WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal mortality rate;¹

WHEREAS, state maternal mortality review committees report an estimated 60% of maternal deaths may be preventable. A growing number of deaths are linked to emergency department (ED) treatable conditions such as cardiovascular disease, cardiomyopathy, and overdose and suicide, with many of these deaths occurring during the postpartum period;²

WHEREAS, Medicaid is the largest payer of maternity care, covering 42.6% of births;³

WHEREAS, states that have expanded Medicaid experienced a 50% greater reduction in infant mortality than non-expansion states;⁴

WHEREAS, pregnancy-related Medicaid eligibility ends 60 days postpartum, and over half ⁵ of Medicaid beneficiaries experience a coverage gap⁶ in the 6 months following childbirth;

WHEREAS, the postpartum period is a time of unmet maternal health needs;⁷

WHEREAS, a study on a Medicaid population of mothers found high use of the ED (34.9%) with associated hospitalization (6.6%) within 6 months of delivery;⁸

¹ MacDorman MF, Declercq E, Cabral H, Morton C. Recent Increases in the U.S. Maternal Mortality Rate: Disentangling Trends From Measurement Issues. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2016;128(3):447-55.

² Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths. (2018). Report from nine maternal mortality review committees. Retrieved from http://reviewtoaction.org/Report_from_Nine_MMRCs.

³ Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK, Driscoll AK, and Drake P. Births: Final Data for 2016. *National vital statistics reports*; vol 67 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_01.pdf

⁴ <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/09/medicaid-expansion-fills-gaps-in-maternal-health-coverage-leading-to-healthier-mothers-and-babies/>

⁵ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.1241>

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=daw+churn>

⁷ Spelke B and Werner E. The Fourth Trimester of Pregnancy: Committing to Maternal Health and Well-Being Postpartum. *R I Med J* (2013). 2018 Oct 1;101(8):30-33. v Tully KP, Stuebe AM, and Verbiest SB. The fourth trimester: a critical transition period with unmet maternal health needs. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2017 Jul;217(1):37-41.

⁸ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28691865>

WHEREAS, postpartum women experience a significantly increased risk (OR 2.2, 95%CI 1.5- 3.1) of thrombotic events (ischemic stroke, acute myocardial infarction, or venous thromboembolism) up to 12 weeks after delivery (past the 60 days covered by Medicaid);⁹

WHEREAS, 13% of pregnancy related maternal deaths occur 42-365 days after delivery;¹⁰

WHEREAS, ACOG is recommending a 3-week and 12-week postpartum follow-up appointment rather than a onetime 6-week appointment;¹¹

WHEREAS, conditions associated with pregnancy such as pregnancy-induced hypertension, gestational diabetes, post-partum depression may drive ED use for these conditions if postpartum mothers lose Medicaid insurance coverage;

WHEREAS, legislation in several states, including Texas, Illinois, California, and New Jersey, were introduced in 2019 to extend Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum;

WHEREAS, the AMA adopted a similar resolution at their 2019 annual meeting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ACEP support the extension of Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum; and

RESOLVED, that ACEP work with relevant stakeholders to support the extension of Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum.

⁹ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa1311485>

¹⁰ Creanga AA, Syverson C, Seed K, Callaghan WM. Pregnancy-related mortality in the United State, 2011-2013. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2017;130(2):366-73.

¹¹ <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Optimizing-Postpartum-Care?IsMobileSet=false>