

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NAME: Doula Services Expanded Benefit	POLICY ID: FL.UM.61.00
BUSINESS UNIT: Sunshine State Health Plan	FUNCTIONAL AREA: Utilization Management
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/2018	PRODUCT(S): Managed Medical Assistance (MMA), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Florida Children's Medical Service (FLCMS) and Child Welfare (CW)
REVIEWED/REVISED 9/4/18, 8/2019, 6/20, 7/21, 9/21, 11/21, 2/22, 2/23	
REGULATOR MOST RECENT APPROVAL DATE(S): N/A	

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of Sunshine Health to cover Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) approved expanded benefit, when appropriate and consistent with good medical practice, and after review on an individual basis, for the specific indications outlined in this policy. Services performed by a doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife who is enrolled with Sunshine Health.

PURPOSE:

To establish clinical criteria on which to review requests for doula services as an expanded benefit for Sunshine Health's Managed Medical Assistance (MMA), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Florida Children's Medical Service (FLCMS) and Child Welfare (CW) Specialty Plan products. The goal is to provide doula services as an expanded benefit and to define criteria and limitations established for the use of doula services. Unlimited Doula prenatal and postpartum visits and attending delivery with prior authorization.

SCOPE:

Health Utilization Department for Managed Medical Assistance (MMA), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Florida Children's Medical Service (FLCMS) and Child Welfare (CW) product line.

DEFINITIONS: N/A

POLICY:

It is the policy of Sunshine Health to cover Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) approved expanded benefit, when appropriate and consistent with good medical practice, and after review on an individual basis, for the specific indications outlined in this policy. Services performed by a doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife who is enrolled with Sunshine Health. This policy is applicable to members age 13 and up that are living in a group home or in a home placement where there is minimal parental support with a goal of improved birth outcomes, reduced pre-term births, and improved prenatal care.

PROCEDURE:

Doula services are classified as services that provide continuous emotional and physical support throughout labor and birth and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods. The doula provides childbirth education, meets with women in their homes, and offers postpartum home visitation and breastfeeding support. Services performed by a doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife.

The following services are outside the scope of practice for the doula:

- Performance of clinical tasks e.g., vaginal exams or fetal heart monitoring.
- Provide medical advice
- Decision making for the member – medical or otherwise
- They do not deliver the baby

Review Process: To assist in determining the medical necessity of an expanded benefit, the clinical criteria established in this policy will be applied. A request for medical necessity review is consistent with Sunshine Health medical policies:

- FL.UM.02.01 - Medical Necessity Review and Continuity of Care
- FL.UM.02.00 – Use of Clinical Criteria
- Any decision to deny, reduce, suspend or terminate services must be made by a Sunshine Health Medical Director as outlined in the policy Clinical Decision Criteria and Application FL.UM.02.00
- Determinations and provider notifications will be made according to the expediency of the case as described in the Timeliness of UM Decisions and Notifications FL.UM.05.00

Specific Clinical Information/Criteria

The requesting practitioner must provide information relative to the expanded benefit service that is being requested.

The criteria for doula services provided to a pregnant member may include, but not limited to:

- Member has a history of trauma or abuse, or
- Member lacks emotional or physical support before and during the delivery process and during the post-partum period, i.e., significant other, family or friend, or
- Member requires educational support during the prenatal period, birthing process, or post-partum to promote informed decision-making and assist with breastfeeding and newborn care.

Services performed by a doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife who is enrolled with Sunshine Health.

REFERENCES:

- FL.UM.02.01 - Medical Necessity Review and Continuity of Care
- FL.UM.02.00 – Use of Clinical Criteria

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: who performs the actions in the policy Utilization Management

REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: N/A

REVISION LOG

REVISION TYPE	REVISION SUMMARY	DATE APPROVED & PUBLISHED
New Policy Document	Policy created	7/11/2018
Annual Review	No changes made	11/2019
Annual Review	Updates policy name and number and changed approver #3 to VP Medical Affairs	6/2020
Annual Review	Added SMI and FL CMS LOB	7/21/21
Updated	Line of Business on Product Type – Removed Comprehensive	9/28/21
Policy Update	Added - Unlimited Doula prenatal and postpartum visits and attending delivery with prior authorization.	11/23/2021
Policy Update	Changed age requirement to 13 and up	2/8/2022
Annual Review	No changes needed	2/6/2023

POLICY AND PROCEDURE APPROVAL

The electronic approval retained in RSA Archer, the Company's P&P management software, is considered equivalent to a signature.

SVP Compliance _____
 Senior Dir. Compliance _____