

Maternity care codes changing

CPT® code modernization bringing changes in billing for pregnancy/delivery services

The **American Medical Association (AMA)**, which created and administers **Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)** medical coding system, is modernizing its “global” classification of **maternity care services** to more accurately reflect how, when and where healthcare providers actually deliver those services today.

In basic terms, the changes represent a shift away from “bundling” the entire continuum of maternity services. As part of this transition to group services under the classifications of **antepartum care, labor management, delivery care** and **postpartum care**, the AMA will:

- **Delete 17** CPT codes
- **Add 12** CPT codes
- **Revise 6** codes

The AMA’s CPT coding changes officially take effect **January 1, 2027**, but because the delivery of maternity care is a monthslong process, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield is proactively taking steps to ensure that providers can **make this transition smoothly**, with as little disruption as possible to the flow of submitted claims.

Arkansas Blue Cross is following the recommendations the **American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG)** has offered to health insurers regarding the maternity care CPT code changes and is actively engaged in reconfiguring our claims systems to accommodate the shift.

As a lead-up to the AMA’s January 1, 2027, CPT code changes, Arkansas Blue Cross recommends a set of **maternity billing guidelines** for the **initial prenatal visits for confirmation of pregnancy** of pregnant Arkansas Blue Cross members within the following date ranges in 2026:

- **Until May 15, 2026** – **Global obstetric codes** still may be used
- **May 15, 2026 - July 14, 2026** – Use **CPT code 59426** + delivery only
- **July 15, 2026 - September 1, 2026** – Use **CPT code 59425** + delivery

Arkansas Blue Cross will provide further guidance on recommended billing practices for initial prenatal visits for confirmation of pregnancy that occur on or after **September 1, 2026**.

Providers who have questions about these impending changes should contact their designated Arkansas Blue Cross **Network Development Representative**.

We very much appreciate the high-quality care our valued maternal healthcare providers deliver to the women who trust Arkansas Blue Cross with their health coverage.