



PROVIDER NOTICE

Provider Relations Department: 888-895-4998 (Option 4)

New Priority Partners Doula Program Strives to Reduce Maternal Mortality Rates

Effective Date: Oct. 31, 2024

Health Plan(s) Affected: Priority Partners

Type of Change: Benefit

Explanation of Change:

Priority Partners announces a new program in collaboration with the digital health solution provider known as [Mae Health](#), focusing on reducing health disparities for expectant mothers. Doula services from a state of Maryland-certified doula are a covered benefit available to all Priority Partners members during pregnancy and for one year postpartum. This program became effective Oct. 31, 2024.

Mae specializes in culturally competent maternal health care for women in Maryland. The Mae program aligns with initiatives to reduce cultural disparities while improving health, mental health and birth outcomes. Mae offers participating members a community-led model of doula support along with an online engagement platform that tracks their physical, social and emotional needs during pregnancy and postpartum to inform the guidance and in-person support they receive.

Interventions and programs, such as the use of doulas, can reduce C-section rates and other complications and drive down rates of preterm birth. Mae was founded on a belief that all women deserve an equal possibility of a safe pregnancy and giving all babies a healthy start.

Doula services, like those included in Mae's provider solution and offered through Priority Partners, are a proven community-based, low-cost approach to improving maternal health. By providing access to doulas and resources to support well-being in pregnancy, Mae will help alleviate systemic inequities in maternal care.

Members can self-refer or providers can refer members to the [Mae Health website](#) to learn more and access this service.