

# Timeliness of Prenatal & Postpartum Care (PPC)

## Provider Tip Sheet

### What is being measured?

The PPC measure examines access to care during and after pregnancy by assessing the percentage of pregnant women who received prenatal and postpartum care in a timely manner. It measures the percentage of pregnant members who received a prenatal care visit during the first trimester and the percentage of women who had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery.

### Why is this measure important?

In North Carolina, 20% of mothers with Medicaid coverage experience inadequate prenatal care, and the rates of preterm birth and low birth weight are significantly higher than recommended by Healthy People 2020.<sup>1</sup> Prenatal care can help prevent complications and inform members about important steps they can take to protect their infant and ensure a healthy pregnancy.<sup>2</sup> After delivery, medical complications can occur; postpartum visits can address any adverse effects that giving birth had on a woman's body, such as persistent bleeding, inadequate iron levels, blood pressure, pain, emotional changes, and infections.<sup>3</sup>

### Eligible Population

All pregnant members are eligible for this measure.

### Medical Record Documentation

If visits are completed by a PCP (in lieu of OB/GYN), documentation must include a diagnosis of pregnancy (Z34).

Description	CPT Codes
Online Assessments	98969-98972, 99421-99423, 99444, 99457
Prenatal Visits	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99483
Stand-Alone Prenatal Visits	99500
Postpartum Visits	57170, 58300, 59430, 99501
Telephone Visits	98966-98968, 99441-99443

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## Best Practices

- Ensure that the prenatal care visit is in the first trimester and the postpartum visit is completed 7-84 days after delivery.
- Ensure that a Notification of Pregnancy form has been completed and sent to the health plan.
- Prenatal visits must be completed by an OB/GYN, other prenatal care practitioner, or PCP.
- Use prenatal visits as an opportunity to discuss the mother's immunization record, educate member about vaccines, and complete other screenings (e.g., behavioral health, postpartum depression).

## References

1. Urban Institute. (2023). [Perinatal Health among Medicaid Beneficiaries in North Carolina, 2018](#).
2. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2017). [What is prenatal care and why is it important?](#)
3. Department of Health Care Services of California (2023). [Prenatal and Postpartum Care—Postpartum Care](#).

## Support

We are committed to the care and well-being of our members. We are also committed to working with you as a partner to develop the best possible treatment plans for all patients.

Please view the Provider section of our website at [network.carolinacompletehealth.com](https://network.carolinacompletehealth.com) for additional tools and resources. You may also contact your [Provider Engagement Administrator](#) directly for support and education.

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