Medical Coverage Policy

Home Births

☐ **Device/Equipment**   ☐ **Drug** ☐ **Medical**   ☐ **Surgery**   ☐ **Test**   ☒ **Other**

Effective Date:	12/6/2011	Policy Last Updated:	12/6/2011

☐ **Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.**

☒ **Prospective review is not required.**

Description:
This reimbursement policy was written to document coverage and BCBSRI's payment policy related to home births.

Medical Criteria:
Not applicable.

Policy:
Credentialing:
  A. Participating providers must notify BCBSRI and be credentialed specifically for home births and carry liability insurance which must include coverage for home births.

Coverage:
  A. The following services are covered:
    1. Home Births services are covered, including routine antenatal, delivery, and post partum care

  B. All of the following services are not covered and are member liability:
    1. Additional prenatal counseling sessions or prenatal evaluation/managment services specifically related to home birth.
    2. Any equipment, supplies including emergency kits, and/or services specifically due to home birth;
    3. Charges related to prolonged personal attendance;
    4. Home modifications;
    5. Standby Services such as: supplies, equipment, support personnel, or ambulance.

  C. Member transfer to facility for delivery:
    1. Home birth provider will be paid for attending at labor in the home prior to transfer but not for attendance in the ambulance; and
    2. Delivery services will be paid only to the provider who delivers the child; and
    3. If during attendance at labor it is determined that the patient must be transferred to a facility and another clinician performs the delivery service, BCBSRI will cover up to one E/M service in the home and up to 3 additional hours of prolonged services with direct care if provided.

Billing:
  A. All global maternity policies apply.
  B. The following provider services are not payable by BCBSRI and are not member liability:
    1. Provider may not bill prenatal care when another provider is also billing prenatal services for the same period; and

2. No additional prenatal Evaluation and Management services related to high risk pregnancies for home birth patients will be covered as home births are expected to be uncomplicated.

Coverage:
Benefits may vary. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefit Booklet for applicable maternity benefits/coverage.

Also Known As:
Not applicable

Related Topics:
High Risk Pregnancy Services and the Maternity Global Reimbursement

Published:
Provider Update, February 2011

References:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Issues Opinion on Planned Home Births.* January 2011. Accessed on 10/5/11: http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr01-20-11.cfm.