



Timeliness of prenatal care

What is timeliness of prenatal care measuring?

This quality of care measure is based on HEDIS® specifications; it measures the percentage of women who had a live birth and received a prenatal care visit during their first trimester of pregnancy or within 42 days of enrollment with Healthy Blue. The HEDIS national benchmark for completion of this measure is 93.1%.

Why is timeliness of prenatal care important?

Timely prenatal care plays a vital role in the health of Healthy Blue mothers and their babies. Pregnant women who do not receive early and adequate prenatal care run the risk of complications that may either be undetected or treated too late in pregnancy. This increases the possibility of adverse outcomes for both mother and baby.

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).



Healthy Blue

As a provider, you can ensure meeting the Timeliness of Prenatal Care measure by following these guidelines:

- Ensure first prenatal care visits are a high priority by endorsing initiation of prenatal care in the first 13 weeks.
- Code the first prenatal visit with a pregnancy diagnosis when submitting your claims.
- If a pregnant woman presents late in her first trimester, avoid coding this visit as a routine office visit or pregnancy confirmation — begin prenatal care to ensure the Timeliness of Prenatal Care measure is met.
- Educate scheduling staff on the importance of checking estimated gestational age when scheduling first prenatal visits.
- Institute a policy for handling no-shows for first prenatal visit that prioritizes the patient based on her estimated gestational age.
- Complete the *Pregnancy Risk Screen* for all Healthy Blue members on the initial prenatal visit. Ensure the information is accurate and that the form is faxed to the local health department promptly.
- Ensure you are using the Category II CPT® code for first prenatal visit, 0500F.

It's important to know that for pregnant women eligible to receive Medicaid, coverage will be effective back to the first day of the month in which they applied. So, if your patient has already applied and is awaiting active coverage, do not delay prenatal care.



Prenatal care within the first trimester represents a key opportunity for health care providers to educate and support mothers for later pregnancy and motherhood.

We encourage you to adopt these best practices and join us in our commitment to your patient's health and well-being.

We also offer our members a \$25 gift card incentive for completion of this measure with our Healthy Rewards program.

If you would like more information on Healthy Blue or our high-risk OB care management program, please call our Provider Services team at 1-833-405-9086.

Healthy Blue is a Medicaid product offered by Missouri Care, Inc., a MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan contracting with the Missouri Department of Social Services. Healthy Blue is administered statewide by Missouri Care, Inc. and administered in the Kansas City service region by Missouri Care, Inc. in cooperation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. Missouri Care, Inc. and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City are both independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.