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**Healthy Children: Maximize Back-to-School Visits with Well-Care Visits**

Help children and adolescents have a strong start to the school year by pairing sports physicals and immunization appointments with annual well-care visits. These combined visits ensure students are ready for the classroom and promote a healthy, successful school year.

As children return to school, providers have a valuable opportunity to deliver comprehensive care. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), some healthy children may only see their providers once a year, often during their annual back-to-school checkups<sup>1</sup>. This makes it essential to use these visits to complete a full well-care evaluation.

**Well-Care Visit Guidance for Children and Adolescents:**

- Children and adolescents aged three to 21 years should receive at least one comprehensive well-care visit annually.
- These visits can be scheduled once per calendar year, without needing to wait a full 365 days since their last visit.
- Well-care visits must occur with a Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) practitioner.

**Billing for Preventive and Sick Visits on the Same Date of Service**

Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc. will pay for both a new/established patient preventative/well visit and a new/established patient sick visit for the same member on the same date of service if the diagnosis codes billed support payment of both codes.

<sup>1</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health. (2025, July 28). *Back to School, Back to the Doctor: How Annual Checkups Support Your Child's Health*.

HealthyChildren.org. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/Back-to-School-Back-to-the-Doctor.aspx>

**Healthy Adults: Partnering with Patients for Better Health**

Patients play a key role in their health. When patients understand their options and receive care that fits their needs, they are more likely to follow through with screenings, manage chronic conditions, take medications as prescribed and avoid unnecessary ER visits<sup>2</sup>. Your support as a provider helps patients stay engaged and make progress towards better health.

**Ways to Help Patients Stay Engaged:**

- Clear health information: Share easy-to-understand education about screenings, conditions and treatments.
- Encouraging health ownership: Motivate patients to take an active role in their health through self-care.

- Working together on care decisions: Involve patients in choosing treatment plans to increase adherence.
- Support from family and friends: Leverage support systems to reinforce healthy behaviors.

There's still time to complete your patients' annual visits. Encouraging patients to schedule today is a simple step that can lead to better health outcomes.

<sup>2</sup>Marzban, S., Najafi, M., Agolli, A., & Ashrafi, E. (2022). Impact of Patient Engagement on Healthcare Quality: A Scoping Review. *Journal of patient experience*, 9, 23743735221125439.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/23743735221125439>

## Women and Infants Health: Access to Care, Telehealth, Doulas and Molina Benefits for Pregnant People

According to a 2023 report released by the March of Dimes, access to care, especially in a maternity desert, is among the top concerns for maternal outcomes and healthy babies<sup>3</sup>. In Ohio, 14.5 percent of birthing people received no or inadequate prenatal care, which is slightly lower than the U.S. rate of 14.8 percent.

- Pregnant people, mostly in rural areas and specifically in Appalachian counties, are struggling with access to care, traveling between 16 to 21 miles for obstetric care or to a birth hospital. Traveling longer distances can cause financial strain and increase prenatal stress and anxiety.
- Pregnant Black people have lower rates of prenatal care across the state and may be less likely to receive needed health screenings and appropriate monitoring of the baby's growth. Environmental factors, including crime rates, access to transportation and housing conditions, create barriers to care for the people in rural areas and Ohio's three larger urban centers (Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland).

### Telehealth

Telehealth prenatal and postpartum care can be a valuable tool for more equitable care and is covered through Ohio Medicaid. Telehealth equips providers with tools to better facilitate care before, during and after pregnancy and has been shown to not only increase access but also improve patient engagement and treatment. Pregnant people who are underserved, vulnerable to poor health outcomes and have limited access to high-risk care can greatly benefit from telehealth.

Telehealth coverage for prenatal and postpartum appointments can replace or enhance in-person care and can improve birth outcomes by providing high-quality care.

Find additional information on Telehealth in our [You Matter to Molina Introduction to Telehealth](#) presentation on the You Matter to Molina page of our Provider Website.

### Doulas

Another new tool to assist pregnant people is Ohio Medicaid's coverage and reimbursement of Doulas to assist with improved maternal outcomes. Doulas around the state will be certified through the Ohio Board of Nursing and can begin to advocate for more of Ohio's Medicaid population. Doulas may request to join Molina's provider network by completing and submitting the Ohio Provider Contract Request Form found on the Provider Website.

For additional information, view the [Ohio Medicaid MCOs Consolidated Doula Resource Guide](#) on the Pregnancy Resources page of our Provider Website.

Molina also offers our Medicaid members a prenatal incentive of \$50 for a timely prenatal appointment in the first 12 weeks and a \$100 reward for a postpartum visit between 7-84 days after delivery. In addition, Molina Medicaid members get unlimited transportation to the OB/GYN while pregnant and for after birth checkups. Members can call (866) 642-9279 (TTY 711) at least 48 hours before the appointment to schedule a ride.

<sup>3</sup>March of Dimes. (2023). *ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE IN OHIO*.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/assets/s3/reports/mcd/Maternity-Care-Report-Ohio.pdf>

## Chronic Conditions: Proposed Changes to HEDIS® Chronic Conditions Measures for MY2026

### Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is proposing to retire the AMR measure for measurement year (MY) 2026 and replace it with the Follow-Up After Acute Care Visits for Asthma (AAF-E) measure. This change not only reflects NCQA's goal of transitioning to digital quality measures but also emphasizes the importance of patients following up with their primary care provider after an acute asthma event to discuss asthma management and medication adherence<sup>4</sup>.

### Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (SPC) and Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes (SPD)

Changes are coming to two statin therapy measures, SPC and SPD:

- Both measures will shift from administrative reporting to the Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) reporting method<sup>4</sup>.
- Updates to identifying members with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) will occur, as well as the removal of exclusions for those enrolled in an Institutional Special Needs Plan (I-SNP) or living in a long-term institution<sup>4</sup>.
- SPC will no longer have sex-specific age ranges, and will instead include all members aged 21-39, as well as be expanded to members aged 76-85<sup>4</sup>.

Molina continues to prioritize improvement activities to assist our members with better management of their chronic conditions. If you're interested in partnering in our improvement work, contact Sebastian Downs, Sr., Specialist Member & Community Interventions at [Sebastian.Downs@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:Sebastian.Downs@MolinaHealthcare.com).

<sup>4</sup>NCQA Communications. (2025, February 13). HEDIS® public comment period is now open - NCQA. NCQA. <https://www.ncqa.org/blog/hedis-public-comment-period-is-now-open-3/>

## Older Adults: Diabetes Management

Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that more than 29 percent of adults aged 65 and older have diabetes, making it one of the most common chronic conditions in this population. Older adults with diabetes often face additional health challenges, including cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, increased fall risk and cognitive decline.

Early identification of cognitive impairment is essential for effective diabetes management in older adults. Cognitive decline can interfere with a person's ability to meet individualized targets for blood glucose, blood pressure and lipid levels, and can make it more difficult to carry out daily self-care tasks such as glucose monitoring, insulin administration and maintaining regular meal routines.

These challenges increase the risk of hypoglycemia, which can further impair cognitive function and lead to serious health consequences. For healthcare providers, this underscores the importance of tailoring treatment plans to each patient’s cognitive and functional abilities, simplifying self-care routines and engaging caregivers or support systems when needed. This patient-centered approach helps reduce complications and supports better daily functioning and overall well-being.

According to the American Diabetes Association’s 2025 Standards of Care, adults aged 65 and older should be screened for mild cognitive impairment or dementia at the initial visit, annually and as clinically appropriate. In addition, assessing the medical, psychological, functional (self-management abilities) and social domains of older adults with diabetes provides a comprehensive framework for setting care goals and selecting appropriate therapeutic strategies.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) developed the evidence-based 4Ms Framework to guide age-friendly care, which is now widely adopted across health systems serving older adults. The 4Ms focus on four key areas:

- **Mentation:** Supporting cognitive health and emotional well-being.
- **Medications:** Ensuring safe, age-appropriate medication use.
- **Mobility:** Promoting safe movement and physical function.
- **What Matters Most:** Aligning care with each individual’s personal goals and values.

These four elements are interconnected, reinforcing the importance of a holistic, person-centered approach to care planning and delivery.

For more information about the 4Ms Framework of an Age-Friendly Health System, visit the IHI webpage at [Age-Friendly Health Systems | Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#).

#### Questions and Quick Links

Provider Services: (855) 322-4079 Mon. – Fri.  
Medicaid 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., MyCare Ohio 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Medicare and Marketplace 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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