



Instructions for Medicaid

We happily accept Medicaid. However, Medicaid requires additional paperwork, planning, and responsibility from both client and practitioner. It is our responsibility to bill for your prenatal care, birth, postpartum care, and newborn/wellbaby care in a timely fashion. We will supply you with a verification of pregnancy and fill out the necessary paperwork after birth to start your baby's Medicaid. We will take copies of your ID card and verify initial eligibility. It is your responsibility to fill out paperwork, turn in verification items, and complete the MCO exemption form in a timely manner. If you need help filling out paperwork, please let us know. We are happy to help you navigate the process. It is also necessary for you to keep all appointments. If you must miss an appointment, we require a 24 hour notice unless there is an emergency.

Due to changes in Medicaid guidelines, clients with Medicaid will need to follow a very strict timeline in applying for Medicaid and requesting an MCO exemption. Clients that have Medicaid prior to 16 weeks will likely not be granted an MCO exemption. We request that you apply between 16-18 weeks and supply all verification documents at the time of application. You MUST request an MCO exemption at 28 weeks to be covered by Medicaid for your birth.

I am not a participating provider with any MCO (VA Premier, Coventry, Anthem, etc.). If you receive paperwork from an MCO, contact me immediately to verify your coverage. If you are enrolled into an MCO at the time of services, you will be responsible for unpaid claims for the care I provide. Please also know that Medicaid WILL NOT pay for duplicate care, meaning they will not pay for care from both a physician and a midwife. Please know that I take a limited number of Medicaid clients per year as there is a significant decrease in the amount I am paid for each birth.

How to get an MCO Exemption:

1. Do NOT apply for Medicaid until 16 weeks pregnant. You may apply in person, over the phone, or online. Please visit https://www.coverva.org/main_apply.cfm for details on how to apply and eligibility.
2. At exactly 28 weeks pregnant call the MCO hotline at 800-643-2273
3. Enter your Medicaid information into the automated system if prompted. Select speak to a rep if allowed.
4. Say the following to the rep, "Hello, my name is _____. Do you need my ID number?" It is _____." Answer any verifications questions. Then explain why you are calling, "I am pregnant in my third trimester and receiving care from a licensed midwife. I need an MCO exemption please." If they act like they don't understand, explain to them, "There is a form that you fill out so that I can continue care with my provider." If they try to transfer you or they act like the MCO exemption doesn't exist, ask to speak with a supervisor. Repeat the information to the supervisor. If there is still confusion, explain that they are handled in a special department (it may help to name drop Queen Green) and there is a form on the computer to fill out for women in their 3rd trimester that haven't been in an mco for 90 days, and receiving care from a midwife (you meet those qualifications). They will take down the information (know your due date and midwife's information), submit it, and tell you that you will receive a letter in the mail confirming their exemption (or with a decision).
5. Continue to come to all appointments, and keep an eye on the mail. Send me a text or email with a picture of your exemption letter or bring it to your next appointment.