Maternal Health - Frequently Asked Questions (Q&A)

Overview and Resources

Where will the Maternal Health 2027 presentation be available?

The Maternal Health 2027 presentation will be posted on the Iowa Health & Human Services (HHS) Initiatives webpage. A dedicated Maternal Health webpage is expected to launch in November or December 2026.

Prenatal Care and Documentation

1. Does Category II code 0500F apply to the initial prenatal history visit with a nurse or the first physical examination with a provider?

Category II code **0500F** is used for the initial prenatal care visit with a prenatal care provider, such as a physician, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), or Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), as applicable.

The code is reported at the first appointment with a prenatal care provider. During this visit, the provider documents the date of the visit and the patient's last menstrual period (LMP) to help establish the pregnancy timeline.

Iowa's maternity documentation guidance identifies this as the initial antepartum visit.

2. Must the initial prenatal care visit be face-to-face, or can a review of records satisfy the requirement?

The initial prenatal care visit must be conducted face-to-face.

3. Are providers currently using the TH modifier for ultrasounds?

Some providers are currently using the TH modifier for ultrasounds. The modifier will be required beginning January 1, 2027, under the Iowa Medicaid requirements described in the Maternal Health 2027 presentation.

4. Some insurance plans will not accept the TH modifier until after the first of the year. Is this correct?

Yes. At this time, the TH modifier requirement applies to Iowa Medicaid. Other insurance plans may have different billing requirements and implementation timelines.

Providers should verify the applicable requirements with each payer.