



Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

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12-Month Supply of Contraceptives Now Available to Virginia Medicaid Members

Policy designed to increase health equity and reduce unintended pregnancies

Richmond – The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) today announced a new policy that allows Medicaid members to receive a 12-month supply of contraceptives, an increase from the one-month supply permitted under previous rules.

The policy covers all routine, self-administered contraceptives, including oral contraceptive pills, weekly patches, monthly rings and injections given at home every three months. Medicaid members in managed care and fee-for-service are included in the new policy, along with those in Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) and Plan First.

“Unintended pregnancies are a major factor driving health inequities. This commonsense policy increases access to contraceptives and empowers our members to make the best decisions about their reproductive health,” said Ellen Montz, DMAS Chief Deputy and Chief Health Economist.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and American College of Gynecologists all recommend extended supply options for contraception. Medical research also supports the effectiveness of the strategy. [A 2018 study in Washington state](#) found that the availability of one-year supplies of contraceptives was associated with fewer unintended pregnancies.

“This reform reduces the potential for contraceptive failures resulting from delays in prescription refills,” said Chethan Bachireddy, DMAS Chief Medical Officer. “Missing more than two consecutive oral contraceptives can result in pregnancy. We encourage our members to talk with their health care providers about which options work best for them.”