If you are a Virginia Medicaid member and are pregnant or have given birth within the last six months ....

You are eligible for community doula care to provide you physical, emotional, and informational support before, during and after you give birth. Your doula must get a licensed practitioner’s recommendation to provide this care under the VA Medicaid program. You can request a recommendation (for example, from a doctor/midwife/nurse³) and give it to your doula. You can ask for a recommendation even if you don’t know who your doula will be yet.

If you are a doula....

You must secure and retain the record of a licensed practitioner’s recommendation for each member prior to initiation of their doula care, storing the record in a manner consistent with HIPAA requirements. A copy of this form must be provided to the Managed Care Organization in which the member is enrolled (for managed care members) or the Department of Medical Assistance Services (for Fee-for-Service members) prior to initiating services.

If you are a licensed practitioner¹....

By filling out this recommendation form, you are enabling this individual to access non-clinical community doula services². A recommendation is not the same as a prescription/medical order.

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1 For the doula benefit, VA Medicaid defines a “licensed practitioner” as licensed clinicians, including physicians, licensed midwives, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other Licensed Mental Health Professionals (Virginia Administrative Code 12VAC35-105-10 defines a Licensed Mental Health Professional as a: physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, or certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist).

Recommendations from licensed, non-clinical providers will not be accepted. The recommending clinician need not be a VA Medicaid provider.

2 VA Medicaid’s doula services are provided as a preventive service. Federal Medicaid law (42 C.F.R. Section 440.130(c)) indicates: “Preventive services” means services recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of authorized practice under State law to - (1) Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression; (2) Prolong life; and (3) Promote physical and mental health and efficiency.