

## Doulas

Policy Number: SC15P0048A2

Effective Date: August 20, 2015

Last Update: May 10, 2021

### PAYMENT POLICY HISTORY

Date	Summary of Change
May 10, 2021	Annual policy update. No changes were made to the policy.
February 21, 2020	Annual policy update. The policy was moved to an updated UCare template.
April 2, 2019	Annual policy update. Other than updating the UCare logo no changes were made to the Policy.
August 2018	Added information under the frequency and service limitations section of the Policy to request a benefit exception if more than 6 sessions are medically necessary.
January 2017	Annual review; no changes made.
January 2016	Under Payment Policy, sub-heading covered services added language to indicate that Doulas were limited to providing childbirth education and support services which include emotional and physical support during pregnancy.

### APPLICABLE PRODUCTS

This policy applies to the products checked below:

UCARE PRODUCT	APPLIES TO
UCare MinnesotaCare	✓
UCare Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)	
UCare Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP)	✓
UCare Connect	
UCare Connect +Medicare (When MHCP is the primary payer)	
UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) (When MHCP is the primary payer)	
UCare Medicare Plans	
UCare EssentiaCare	



## PAYMENT POLICY

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UCARE PRODUCT	APPLIES TO
UCare Medicare M Health Fairview & North Memorial	
UCare Individual & Family Plans	
UCare Individual & Family Plans M Health Fairview	

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**PAYMENT POLICY INSTRUCTIONS**

A payment policy assists in determining provider reimbursement for specific covered services. To receive payment, the provider must be in a contractual relationship with UCare and provide services to a member enrolled in one of UCare’s products. This payment policy is intended to provide a foundation for system configuration, work instructions, call scripts, and provider communications. A payment policy describes the rules for payment, which include applicable fee schedules, additional payment rules by regulatory bodies, and contractual terms. This policy is a general guideline, and may be superseded by specific provider contract language.

**PAYMENT POLICY OVERVIEW**

This Policy outlines the payment and billing guidelines for services performed by Doulas to individuals covered under one of UCare’s PMAP or MinnesotaCare products.

**POLICY DEFINITIONS**

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Certified Doula	Means an individual who has received a certification to perform doula services from the International Childbirth Education Association, the Doulas of North America (DONA), the Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE), Birthworks, the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA), Childbirth International, or the International Center for Traditional Childbearing, or Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.
Doula Services	Means services that offer continuous emotional and physical support throughout labor and birth and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods.

**ENROLLEE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**THIS SECTION OF THE POLICY PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT IS SPECIFIC TO THE UCARE MEMBER, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRITERIA THE MEMBER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THE POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT**

Pregnant UCare members are eligible to receive Doula services.

**ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OR FACILITIES**

**OUTLINED BELOW IS THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA A PROVIDER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THIS POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT. THE SERVICE(S) IN THE POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT**

**Provider**

- Doulas registered with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are eligible to provide services effective July 1, 2014 when they are certified by one of the following organizations:
  - Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE)
  - Birthworks
  - Childbirth International
  - Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPP)
  - Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.
  - Doulas of North America (DONA)
  - International Center for Traditional Childbearing (CTC)
  - International Childbirth Education Association (CEA)
- Doulas must be registered with the State of Minnesota in order to be eligible to furnish services.

Services performed by a Doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife who is enrolled with UCare. No physician extenders reductions are applied to these services.

**Facility**

Not applicable.

**Other and/or Additional Information**

Not applicable.

**EXCLUDED PROVIDER TYPES**

**OUTLINED BELOW IS INFORMATION REGARDING PROVIDERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH THE SERVICE(S) LISTED IN THIS POLICY.**

Not applicable.

**MODIFIERS, CPT, HCPCS, AND REVENUE CODES**

**General Information**

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) HCPCS, and Revenue codes listed in this policy are for reference purposes only. Including information in this policy does not imply that the service described by a code is a covered or non-covered health service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee of claim payment.

**Modifiers**

The modifiers listed below are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all modifiers. Instead, the modifiers that are listed are those that must be appended to the CPT® / HCPCS codes listed below. Based on the service(s) provided, and the circumstances surrounding those services it may, based on correct coding, be appropriate to append an additional modifier(s) to the CPT® / HCPCS code.

When a service requires multiple modifiers the modifiers must be submitted in the order listed below. If it is necessary to add additional modifiers they should be added after the modifiers listed below.

MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
-U4	For purposes of this policy the U4 modifier indicates services were performed by a Doula.

**CPT and/or HCPCS Code(s)**

CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S)	MODIFIER	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
S9445	U4	Non-Labor and Non-Delivery Sessions
99199	U4	Labor and Delivery Session

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.



### Revenue Codes

Not applicable.

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

### Fee Schedule Updates

Information regarding the update of fee schedules can be found in the [UCare Provider Manual](#), Section 10-20, Fee Schedule Updates.

### Covered Services

- Doula covered services are limited to childbirth education and support services which include emotional and physical support during pregnancy.
- Under the MHCP products UCare covers up to seven (7) sessions with a Doula, one of which must be for labor and delivery. The remaining six sessions may be used to furnish antepartum and postpartum care as needed.
- Services performed by a Doula must be supervised by a physician, nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse midwife who is enrolled with UCare. No mid-level or physician extender reductions are applied to these services.

### Non-Covered Services

Travel time and mileage are not covered services

## BILLING REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

- Submit Doula services using the MN-ITS 837P format or the electronic equivalent
- Enter the NPI for the supervising physician, nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife in the rendering box in MN-ITS
- If the billing entity has an additional NPI, enter that NPI in the Pay To box in MN-ITS
- Bill all non-labor and non-delivery sessions with S9445 appended with the -U4 modifier
- Bill the labor and delivery session with 99199 appended with the -U4 modifier

**PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, NOTIFICATION AND THRESHOLD INFORMATION****Prior Authorization and Notification Requirements**

A prior authorization is not required for Doula services. UCare does update its' authorization, notification and threshold requirements from time-to-time. The most current prior authorization requirements can be found [here](#).

**Threshold Information**

The following limitations apply to Doula services:

- Doulas are limited to billing six (6) non-labor sessions (S9445, -U4 Modifier)
- Doulas are limited to billing one (1) labor and delivery session (99199, -U4 Modifier)

If additional visits beyond the six (6) eligible visits are medically necessary, the provider may request a benefit exception.

**RELATED PAYMENT POLICY INFORMATION**

**OUTLINED BELOW ARE OTHER POLICIES THAT MAY RELATE TO THIS POLICY AND/OR MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THIS POLICY.**

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE
SC14P0007A6	Freestanding Birthing Centers

UCare payment policies are updated from time to time. The most current UCare payment policies can be found [here](#).

**SOURCE DOCUMENTS AND REGULATORY REFENCES**

**LISTED BELOW ARE LINKS TO CMS, MHCP, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REFERENCES USED TO CREATE THIS POLICY**

[MHCP Provider Manual, Reproductive Health OB/GYN, Doula Services](#)

[Minnesota Statutes, section 144.651, subd. 10](#) (Health Care Bill of Rights: Participation in Planning Treatment; Notification of Family Members)

[Minnesota Statutes, section 148.995, subd. 2](#) (Definitions: Certified Doula)

[Laws of Minnesota 2014, chapter 291, article 4, section 23](#) (amended section 148.995, subd. 2)

[Minnesota Statutes, section 148.996](#) (Registry)

[Laws of Minnesota 2014, chapter 291, article 4, section 24](#) (amended section 148.996, subd. 2)

[Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.0625, subd. 28b](#) (Covered Services: Doula Services)

## DISCLAIMER

“Payment Policies assist in administering payment for UCare benefits under UCare’s health benefit plans. Payment Policies are intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UCare’s administration of health benefits and are not intended to address all issues related to payment for health care services provided to UCare members. In particular, when submitting claims, all providers must first identify member eligibility, federal and state legislation or regulatory guidance regarding claims submission, UCare provider participation agreement contract terms, and the member-specific Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or other benefit document. In the event of a conflict, these sources supersede the Payment Policies. Payment Policies are provided for informational purposes and do not constitute coding or compliance advice. Providers are responsible for submission of accurate and compliant claims. In addition to Payment Policies, UCare also uses tools developed by third parties, such as the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®\*), InterQual guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), or other coding guidelines, to assist in administering health benefits. References to CPT® or other sources in UCare Payment Policies are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to payment. Other UCare Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines may also apply. UCare reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary and to administer payments in a manner other than as described by UCare Payment Policies when necessitated by operational considerations.”