

How does home visiting complement the prenatal care you provide?

Home visitors generally address social, economic, educational, and parenting issues that strongly influence health outcomes but are difficult to resolve during a prenatal visit. Home visiting staff provide medical information that is consistent with national guidelines.

What are the HIPAA regulations for sharing information about a client with home visiting staff?

Under HIPAA, without patient consent, a health care provider may disclose PHI to another provider or to an MCO for treatment activities [45 C.F.R. § 164.506 (c)(1) and (2)]. Treatment is not a narrowly defined term. It means not only the provision of care but also the coordination or management of health care between and among several health care providers [45 C.F.R. § 164.501]. This provision allows providers to share PHI with one another to coordinate and manage the patient's care. Moreover, Medicaid law allows disclosure of Medicaid records as necessary to discharge responsibilities to administer the medical assistance program [Md. Code Article 88A § 6(a)].

Coordination of care is a significant responsibility of the HealthChoice Program and all of its component parts, including the providers who work with HealthChoice recipients.

What kinds of services are available for women who do not qualify for home visiting?

All pregnant women – regardless of health status – are encouraged to join the Baby Basics prenatal education program. This is part of the B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB) Initiative. Moms Clubs are facilitated group sessions held at convenient locations and times throughout the city. You can refer your patients to a Moms Club for support and education.

BHB also provides Baby Basics books and planners to all pregnant women at their first prenatal visit. Visit www.healthybabiesbaltimore.com for more information.

What are the home visiting programs in Baltimore City?

HCAM will triage eligible women into a program at one of these organizations:

- Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc.
- Baltimore Medical System
- Bon Secours Baltimore Health System
- DRU/Mondawmin Healthy Families
- Maternal and Infant Health/BCHD
- The M. Peter Moser Community Initiatives Program
- The Family Tree



HealthyBabiesBaltimore.com

FAQs on Home Visiting for Providers



What is home visiting in Baltimore City?

Home visiting programs provide in-home support to pregnant and newly delivered women with the goal of improving the health of infants from birth into early childhood. Clients are matched with a home visiting program best suited for them based on their health profile, place of residence and other factors. Home visiting services are delivered by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and community-based organizations.



What are the standards for home visiting programs in Baltimore City?

Baltimore City's home visiting programs have adopted one or more of the following four models:

- **Nurse-Family Partnership.** NFP is a national home visiting model that uses nurses as home visitors. Three randomized, controlled trials demonstrated that NFP delivers against its goals of better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and increased economic self-sufficiency. NFP is intended only for low-income women pregnant with their first child. Clients receive an initial home visit no later than the end of week 28. Nurses from BCHD and Baltimore Medical System implement NFP in Baltimore City.
- **Nurse Home Visiting.** Pregnant women who have had a poor outcome in a previous pregnancy or who are at heightened medical risk receive standardized care from a nurse or social worker employed by BCHD.
- **Healthy Families.** Healthy Families is a national home visiting model that uses highly trained paraprofessionals. Several community-based organizations implement this model in Baltimore City.
- **Healthy Start.** The federal Healthy Start model for paraprofessionals includes a home visiting component as part of case management. This model is implemented by Baltimore Healthy Start, Inc. at locations throughout the city.

How are women referred into home visiting programs?

Health care providers like you are the primary source of referral into home visiting. The referral is initiated when you complete the Prenatal Risk Assessment (PRA) form at the first prenatal visit. It is important that you complete the PRA form for each pregnant woman – regardless of insurance status or risk level. Completed PRAs should be faxed to HealthCare Access Maryland (HCAM), the central intake and assessment site for Baltimore City.

For information about the PRA form or to obtain PRAs for your office, please contact 410-649-0526 (ext. 3059). The order form should be faxed to 410-690-7386.

How are women triaged into home visiting programs?

HealthCare Access Maryland applies standardized triage criteria to determine a woman's eligibility for home visiting services. Risk factors include - **but are not limited to** - a previous poor birth outcome, maternal age <15 years or >45 years and medical conditions such as hypertension. The criteria can be found at www.healthybabiesbaltimore.com. If a client is eligible for home visiting, HealthCare Access Maryland will:

- Contact the client by phone or in person to confirm her eligibility and encourage her to participate
- Notify you of the referral and
- Notify the home visiting program of the referral

Home visiting clients are fully informed about the program and provide their consent for enrollment. Their participation is voluntary and may be discontinued at any time.