



## Initiation and Frequency of Prenatal Care and Postpartum Care

### Best Practice

Prenatal and postpartum care are critical to the health and well-being of mothers and their newborns. Infants born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born with low birth weight and have an infant mortality rate five times that of those whose mothers received prenatal care.<sup>1</sup>

A postpartum visit is important to help new mothers know what to expect during the postpartum period and resolve any issues which may arise. In addition, many women experience some degree of emotional distress in the postpartum period and need personalized care during this time to hasten the development of a healthy mother-infant relationship and a sense of maternal confidence.<sup>2</sup>

### Wellness Report

Molina Healthcare annually monitors the percentage of deliveries that received a prenatal care visit in the first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment and the percentage of deliveries that had a postpartum visit on or between 21 and 56 days after delivery.

HEDIS <sup>®</sup> Measure	2007 Rate	2008 Rate	2009 Rate	Goal*
Initiation of Prenatal Care	88.91%	87.21%	86.44%	89.00%
Frequency of Prenatal Care	76.27%	76.76%	70.13%	75.30%
Postpartum Care	62.53%	61.41%	58.69%	66.00%

\* National NCQA 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for Medicaid HMO plans.

<sup>1</sup> Preventing Infant Mortality Fact Sheet. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/factsheet/infant.html>. Updated Jan 13, 2006. Accessed December 12, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist. 2002. Guidelines for Perinatal Care (5<sup>th</sup> Edition).