

## Molina Healthcare – for All Lines of Business

### Inpatient Authorization Requirements for Labor and Delivery Admissions

Molina Healthcare of Utah is issuing this bulletin to clarify **inpatient authorization requirements** for **labor and delivery admissions**, based on **length of stay thresholds** for vaginal and cesarean deliveries. This guidance is intended to reduce administrative burden on routine deliveries while ensuring appropriate utilization management for extended hospital stays.

#### **⚠ AUTHORIZATION NOT REQUIRED**

Authorization is **not required** when the inpatient hospital stay **does not exceed** the following timeframes from **admission through discharge**:

- **Vaginal delivery:**  
**48 hours or less**
- **Cesarean delivery (C-section):**  
**96 hours or less**

This applies when the hospital stay is **routine and uncomplicated** and falls within the above timeframes.

#### **⚠ AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED**

Authorization **is required** when the inpatient stay **exceeds** the standard timeframes:

- **Vaginal delivery:**  
**More than 48 hours**
- **Cesarean delivery:**  
**More than 96 hours**

If the provider anticipates that the member's inpatient stay **will exceed** these timeframes due to medical necessity, the facility **must notify Molina Healthcare of Utah** and submit a request for authorization. Early notification allows Molina to coordinate care and avoid potential claim delays or denials.

#### **Provider Responsibilities**

- Monitor inpatient length of stay for labor and delivery admissions.
- **Notify Molina as soon as it is known that the stay will exceed routine timeframes.**
- Submit required documentation to support medical necessity for extended inpatient stays.
- Ensure claims are billed consistent with authorization status and length of stay.