



Monthly Provider Update

October 2026

Go Paperless! Get the Monthly Provider Update by Email

Providers can sign up to receive monthly updates via email by filling out [the form on our Bulletins page](#).

Did you miss an update? You can locate Monthly Provider Updates from previous months and applicable supplemental bulletins in the **archive section of the Bulletins page**, or see full details of any ongoing reminders on the **Ongoing Reminders page**.

This month, we have important updates regarding pharmacy benefit changes, prior authorization updates, preventative health reminders, and benefit education for care of pregnant members.

Market-Wide Updates

Respiratory Illness Season Is Here: Your Recommendation Matters

As respiratory illness season begins, now is the time to **encourage patients to receive recommended vaccinations**, including influenza, COVID-19, and other age-appropriate respiratory vaccines. A **strong provider recommendation remains one of the most influential factors in a patient's decision** to get vaccinated. Consider reviewing vaccine status at every visit and using standing orders or Electronic Health Record (EHR) reminders to help increase vaccination rates.

Kalamazoo Doula and MIHP Workshop

Meridian is hosting a **workshop on maternal and infant health**.

Our goal is to create a space to work collaboratively to **improve maternal and infant health outcomes**. Doulas, MIHPs, Midwives, Lactation Consultants, Health Departments, Physicians, and Maternal & Infant Health Community-Based Organizations are all welcome!

October 23, 2026 | 12-3 pm EST, light refreshments will be served.

Note: Previous communications regarding this workshop stated childcare would be available. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we can no longer offer childcare at this event.



Upcoming Events

Additional details, registration information, and webinar links are on our Bulletins page

Doula and MIHP Workshop

Kalamazoo, MI

Friday, October 23, 12-3 pm EST

Monthly Provider Webinar

Live Training: Availability

Wednesday, November 4, 9-10 am EST



Prepare Asthma Patients Before Peak Respiratory Season

Respiratory illness season can trigger asthma exacerbations and **increase the risk of avoidable emergency department visits** and hospitalizations. **Review asthma action plans**, assess symptom control, and ensure patients understand how and when to use their medications. Proactive management now can **help prevent serious complications** throughout the fall and winter months.

Close the Gap: Order Annual Kidney Health Testing Today

Patients with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes may be due for annual kidney health evaluation. Completion of both the eGFR and uACR tests is required to close KED care gaps and **support early identification**. Patients with **diabetes or high blood pressure are at increased risk for chronic kidney disease** and may be due for kidney health testing. Completing both the **eGFR and uACR tests helps identify kidney disease earlier and supports quality care**. Review your patient panel, **order both tests for eligible patients** with open gaps, and encourage completion before year-end.

Meridian (Medicaid) Updates

Provider Authorization Updates for November 2026

- Effective 11/16/2026, Meridian will require prior authorization for the following code: 54405 NSRT INFLATBL PENILE PROSTH W/PLCMT PUMP/CYLIND
- Effective 11/23/26, code S9432 will require Prior authorization to align with MDHHS fee schedule.

Upcoming Changes to Michigan Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits

Effective January 1, 2027, dental services for **adults enrolled in a Medicaid Health Plan will be provided through Healthy Kids Dental**, serviced by Delta Dental of Michigan. This change **does not affect dental services currently covered**. For more information please see our Bulletins page.

Help Members Get Connected to a Doula

Providers can play an **important role in helping pregnant members connect with doula support**. Doulas provide nonmedical **emotional, physical, and educational support during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period**. Among members with doula support, **81.2% received timely prenatal care**, a rate **10.5 percentage points higher** than members without a doula. In addition, **80.3% of members with doula support received postpartum care**, a rate **20.9 percentage points higher** than members without a doula.

How providers can help:

- Ask pregnant members if they are interested in doula support.
- Explain that a doula works alongside the member's clinical care team and does not replace medical care.
- Encourage members to visit meetmae.com or call Meridian Member Services at 888-437-0606 (TTY 711) to find an in-network doula.



Maternal Mental Health

Would you like **free help supporting the mental health of your prenatal and postpartum patients**? Michigan Clinical Consultation & Care (MC3) offers **same-day psychiatry consultations** for providers statewide at no cost through same day phone consultations. Please visit the MC3 website (linked on our bulletins page) for more details.

Gender Affirming Care Drug Product Carve Outs Effective 10/13/2026

Effective 10/13/2026, **for Michigan Medicaid managed care plans**, drug classes that have the potential to be used to provide **Gender Affirming Care (GAC)** are carved out from the managed care Medicaid pharmacy benefit. This means that pharmacy claims billed to managed care plans will be rejected with NCPDP Reject Code 831 and indicate a message to **bill the claim to the fee-for-service pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) PrimeTherapeutics**, the State of Michigan Medicaid Program's pharmacy benefit claims processor.

The State of Michigan Medicaid Program & **Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)** has **mandated that all Michigan Medicaid managed care plans**, including Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, conduct this change in order remain in compliance with federal regulation (CMS-2451-F final rule).

The **State of Michigan Medicaid Program** will continue to cover these treatments according to Michigan Medicaid fee-for-service pharmacy rules and restrictions using state general funds. Please refer to the associated supplemental bulletin for more information.

Important MI Medicaid Formulary Changes Effective 11/1/2026: Humira, Cosentyx, Farxiga, others

The State of Michigan (MI) Medicaid Program and **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)** pharmacy department are **mandating several high impact formulary changes** that will affect many Michigan Meridian Medicaid members, prescribers, and pharmacies, **effective on 11/01/2026**. These changes include **moving several highly utilized biologic medicines**, including brand name Humira and Cosentyx, **from preferred without prior authorization status, to non-preferred with prior authorization status**. Other highly utilized drugs being changed are Farxiga and Janumet XR. Please refer to **the Bulletins page** for a more **detailed list and a table with suggested preferred alternatives** for your patients on and after 11/01/2026.

Ambetter from Meridian (Marketplace) Updates

Modifier 33 Requirement on Breast Exams

Supplemental and diagnostic mammograms, breast MRI, breast ultrasounds, and pathology evaluations used to complete the breast cancer screening process are covered as preventive services and are **not subject to member cost share**. To be considered preventive, claims **must be billed with the appropriate breast screening diagnosis code and modifier 33**. Please note that prior authorization may still be required for certain services. Providers should verify authorization requirements before rendering services.



Non-Covered H-Codes and Outpatient Billing Requirements

Effective January 1, 2027, **48 H-codes will no longer be covered under Ambetter**. For outpatient claims billed on a UB-04, when a revenue code is billed with a procedure code, the procedure code is used for adjudication. **If the procedure code is not a covered Ambetter benefit, the claim will be denied.** Providers should **avoid billing non-covered H-codes** on these claim types and ensure any **required authorizations are obtained** to support accurate claim processing.

In Case You Missed It

Additional details can be found on our [Ongoing Reminders page](#)

- Meridian has made efforts to help prescribers **transition patients to the newer, more cost effective Zepbound Kwikpen formulation** as easily as possible. Please see the full supplemental bulletin article titled "Zepbound to Zepbound Kwikpen Rx Conversions (MI Medicaid)" for full details, prescribing nuances, and guidance on selecting patient candidates to transition to Zepbound Kwikpen.
- We encourage all prescribers of Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) systems to please **use only one benefit pathway for each member's CGM supplies**: either the medical benefit or the pharmacy benefit, and to please work with the member to determine the appropriate pathway based on their preference and dispensing needs.
- **Preventive care visits are an important opportunity** to identify health concerns early, review recommended screenings and vaccinations, and support proactive care planning. Providers can improve health outcomes by engaging members who are overdue for preventive services and addressing care gaps.
- **Wellcare By Meridian patients have dental benefits** through our partnered dental provider, DentaQuest, covering preventive and restorative services such as routine exams, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, extractions, and more. Patients can contact DentaQuest Member Services or use the Find a Provider tool to find a participating dentist.
- **Recent Prior Authorization, Billing, and Policy Updates:**
 - Evolent Prior Authorization Updates – Effective 1/1/2027
 - Medicaid Prior Authorization Updates (multiple specialties) – Effective 10/1/2026
 - Lupron (Leuprolide) Prior Authorization Update – Effective 8/11/2026