



BROCATO & SHATTUCK

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
Bill: House Bill 1036 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Maternal Fetal Medicine Services - Reimbursement
Position: **Favorable**

On behalf of our client Pediatrix Medical Group we support this important legislation. Pediatrix is a national, physician-led health care organization that partners with hospitals, health systems and health care facilities to offer clinical services spanning the women’s and children’s continuum of care.

In Maryland there are 112 affiliated clinical providers specializing in Maternal Fetal Medicine, Neonatology, OB/GYN, Pediatric Intensivists & Hospitalists who focus on equitable, comprehensive services across the continuum of care. Pediatrix staffs 11 hospitals and has multiple outpatient offices throughout the State.

House Bill 1036 “requires Medicaid to reimburse physicians billing for a “maternal fetal medicine code” at the rate associated with the code under the federal Medicare fee schedule.”

Maryland’s Medicaid E&M codes being paid at 100% of Medicare is very helpful for physicians to ensure that Maryland’s most at risk population has access to high quality care. However, in addition to E&M codes, the services provided by Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists would also benefit from Medicaid rate increases to improve access to care and outcomes for high-risk pregnant mothers and babies.

Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists provide and treat women whose pregnancies are considered high-risk, specifically with conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, multiple gestation, recurrent miscarriage, family history of genetic diseases, and other complications.

Advanced diagnostic procedures and imaging leads allows MFMs to:

- Manage complications that arise during pregnancy or delivery.
- Conduct and interpret diagnostic tests to determine a mother’s health and check the fetus’s growth and development.
- Identify and treat abnormalities, genetic disorders, heart conditions and blood disorders.
- Offer preconception counseling for patients with medical complications, working with families to develop treatment plans to optimize future pregnancy outcomes.

Now more than ever, additional Medicaid increases for MFM specialty services are critical to improve access to care and outcomes for high-risk pregnant mothers and babies.

For these reasons we ask for a **Favorable report on House Bill 1036.**

For more information:

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