[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Sponsored by:
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SYNOPSIS

Establishes "New Jersey Menopause Coverage Act"; requires health insurance coverage of medically necessary perimenopause and menopause treatments.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee on June 19, 2025, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/22/2025)

AN ACT concerning health insurance coverage of certain perimenopause and menopause services and amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. (New section) a. A hospital service corporation contract that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1938, c.366 (C.17:48-1 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any named subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage perimenopause and menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2]**[**,**]** and[2] medications [2]**[**, and supplements,**]**[2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2]**[**cardiovascular disease,**]**[2] osteoporosis[2]**[**,**]**[2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling regarding menopause management.

b. A hospital service corporation shall provide clear and accessible information to subscribers or covered persons regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all hospital service corporation contracts in which the hospital service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1]**[**natural and**]**[1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1]Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted March 20, 2025.
[2]Assembly AFI committee amendments adopted June 19, 2025.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

2. (New section) a. Every medical service corporation contract that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1940, c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any named subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage perimenopause and menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,][2] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. A medical service corporation shall provide clear and accessible information to subscribers or covered persons regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all medical service corporation contracts in which the medical service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

3. (New section) a. Every health service corporation contract that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1985, c.236 (C.17:48E-1 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any named subscriber or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage perimenopause and menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,][2] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. A health service corporation shall provide clear and accessible information to subscribers or covered persons regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all health service corporation contracts in which the health service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

4. (New section) a. Every individual policy that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to N.J.S. 17B:26-1 et seq., or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective

date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any named insured or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage perimenopause and menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,][2] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. Every individual policy shall provide clear and accessible information to insureds regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the policy.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all health insurance policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

5. (New section) a. Every group health policy that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to N.J.S.17B:27-26 et seq., or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any named insured or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause,

menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage perimenopause and menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. Every group policy shall provide clear and accessible information to insureds regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the policy.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

6. (New section) a. Every enrollee agreement that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1973, c.337 (C.26:2J-1 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any enrollee or other person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment [2][related to] for women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. A health maintenance organization shall provide clear and accessible information to enrollees regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the enrollee agreement.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to change the schedule of charges.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

7. (New section) a. Every individual health benefits plan that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1992, c.161 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions

related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2]⟦cardiovascular disease,⟧[2] osteoporosis[2]⟦,⟧[2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. An individual health benefits plan shall provide clear and accessible information to a covered person regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the health benefits plan.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1]⟦natural and⟧[1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

8. (New section) a. Every small employer health benefits plan that provides hospital or medical expense benefits and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall provide benefits to any person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2]⟦,⟧ and[2] medications [2]⟦, and supplements,⟧[2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2]⟦cardiovascular disease,⟧[2] osteoporosis[2]⟦,⟧[2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. A small employer health benefits plan shall provide clear and accessible information to a covered person regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the health benefits plan.

d. The provisions of this section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

e. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1]**[**natural and**]**[1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

9. (New section) a. The State Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that every contract purchased by the commission on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that provides hospital or medical expense benefits, shall provide benefits to any person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2]**[**,**]** and[2] medications [2]**[**, and supplements,**]**[2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2]**[**cardiovascular disease,**]**[2] osteoporosis[2]**[**,**]**[2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. The State Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that each contract shall provide clear and accessible information to a covered person regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

d. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1]**[**natural and**]**[1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

10. (New section) a. The School Employees' Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that every contract purchased by the commission on or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that provides hospital or medical expense benefits, shall provide benefits to any person covered thereunder for expenses incurred in obtaining medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(1) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(2) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(3) behavioral health care services;

(4) pelvic floor physical therapy;

(5) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,][2] and[2] medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(6) preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(7) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

b. The School Employees Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that each contract shall provide clear and accessible information to a covered person regarding covered perimenopause and menopause treatments.

c. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

d. As used in this section:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

11. Section 6 of P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-6) is amended to read as follows:

6. a. Subject to the requirements of Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act, the limitations imposed by this act and by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, the department shall provide medical assistance to qualified applicants, including authorized services within each of the following classifications:

(1) Inpatient hospital services

(2) Outpatient hospital services;

(3) Other laboratory and X-ray services;

(4) (a) Skilled nursing or intermediate care facility services;

(b) Early and periodic screening and diagnosis of individuals who are eligible under the program and are under age 21, to ascertain their physical or mental health status and the health care, treatment, and other measures to correct or ameliorate defects and chronic conditions discovered thereby, as may be provided in regulation of the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services and approved by the commissioner;

(5) Physician's services furnished in the office, the patient's home, a hospital, a skilled nursing, or intermediate care facility or elsewhere.

As used in this subsection, "laboratory and X-ray services" includes HIV drug resistance testing, including, but not limited to, genotype assays that have been cleared or approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, laboratory developed genotype assays, phenotype assays, and other assays using phenotype prediction with genotype comparison, for persons diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS.

b. Subject to the limitations imposed by federal law, by this act, and by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, the medical assistance program may be expanded to include authorized services within each of the following classifications:

(1) Medical care not included in subsection a.(5) above, or any other type of remedial care recognized under State law, furnished by licensed practitioners within the scope of their practice, as defined by State law;

(2) Home health care services;

(3) Clinic services;

(4) Dental services;

(5) Physical therapy and related services;

(6) Prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices; and eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by an optometrist, whichever the individual may select;

(7) Optometric services;

(8) Podiatric services;

(9) Chiropractic services;

(10) Psychological services;

(11) Inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under 21 years of age, or under age 22 if they are receiving such services immediately before attaining age 21;

(12) Other diagnostic, screening, preventative, and rehabilitative services, and other remedial care;

(13) Inpatient hospital services, nursing facility services, and immediate care facility services for individuals 65 years of age or over in an institution for mental diseases;

(14) Intermediate care facility services;

(15) Transportation services;

(16) Services in connection with the inpatient or outpatient treatment or care of substance use disorder, when the treatment is

prescribed by a physician and provided in a licensed hospital or in a narcotic and substance use disorder treatment center approved by the Department of Health pursuant to P.L.1970, c.334 (C.26:2G-21 et. seq.) and whose staff includes a medical director, and limited those services eligible for federal financial participation under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act;

(17) Any other medical care and any other type of remedial care recognized under State law, specified by the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and approved by the commissioner;

(18) Comprehensive maternity care, which may include: the basic number of prenatal and postpartum visits recommended by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology; additional prenatal and postpartum visits that are medically necessary; necessary laboratory, nutritional assessment and counseling, health education, personal counseling, managed care, outreach, and follow-up services; treatment of conditions which may complicate pregnancy doula care; and physician or certified nurse midwife delivery services. For the purposes of this paragraph, "doula" means a trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a mother before, during, and shortly after childbirth, to help her to achieve the healthiest, most satisfying experience possible;

(19) Comprehensive pediatric care, which may include: ambulatory, preventive, and primary care health services. The preventive services shall include, at a minimum, the basic number of preventive visits recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(20) Services provided by a hospice which is participating in the Medicare program established pursuant to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Pub.L.89-97 (42 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.). Hospice services shall be provided subject to approval of the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services for federal reimbursement;

(21) Mammograms, subject to approval of the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services for federal reimbursement, including one baseline mammogram for women who are at least 35 but less than 40 years of age; one mammogram examination every two years or more frequently, if recommended by a physician, for women who are at least 40 but less than 50 years of age; and one mammogram examination every year for women age 50 and over;

(22) Upon referral by a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant of a person who has been diagnosed with diabetes, gestational diabetes, or pre-diabetes, in accordance with standards adopted by the American Diabetes Association:

(a) Expenses for diabetes self-management education or training to ensure that a person with diabetes, gestational diabetes, or pre-diabetes can optimize metabolic control, prevent and manage complications,

and maximize quality of life. Diabetes self-management education shall be provided by an in-State provider who is:

(i) a licensed, registered, or certified health care professional who is certified by the National Certification Board of Diabetes Educators as a Certified Diabetes Educator, or certified by the American Association of Diabetes Educators with a Board Certified-Advanced Diabetes Management credential, including, but not limited to: a physician, an advanced practice or registered nurse, a physician assistant, a pharmacist, a chiropractor, a dietitian registered by a nationally recognized professional association of dietitians, or a nutritionist holding a certified nutritionist specialist (CNS) credential from the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists; or

(ii) an entity meeting the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, as evidenced by a recognition by the American Diabetes Association or accreditation by the American Association of Diabetes Educators;

(b) Expenses for medical nutrition therapy as an effective component of the person's overall treatment plan upon a: diagnosis of diabetes, gestational diabetes, or pre-diabetes; change in the beneficiary's medical condition, treatment, or diagnosis; or determination of a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant that reeducation or refresher education is necessary. Medical nutrition therapy shall be provided by an in-State provider who is a dietitian registered by a nationally-recognized professional association of dietitians, or a nutritionist holding a certified nutritionist specialist (CNS) credential from the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists, who is familiar with the components of diabetes medical nutrition therapy;

(c) For a person diagnosed with pre-diabetes, items and services furnished under an in-State diabetes prevention program that meets the standards of the National Diabetes Prevention Program, as established by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(d) Expenses for any medically appropriate and necessary supplies and equipment recommended or prescribed by a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant for the management and treatment of diabetes, gestational diabetes, or pre-diabetes, including, but not limited to: equipment and supplies for self-management of blood glucose; insulin pens; insulin pumps and related supplies; and other insulin delivery devices;

(23) Expenses incurred for the provision of group prenatal services to a pregnant woman, provided that:

(a) the provider of such services, which shall include, but not be limited to, a federally qualified health center or a community health center operating in the State:

(i) is a site accredited by the Centering Healthcare Institute, or is a site engaged in an active implementation contract with the Centering Healthcare institute, that utilizes the Centering Pregnancy model; and

(ii) incorporates the applicable information outlined in any best practices manual for prenatal and postpartum maternal care developed

by the Department of Health into the curriculum for each group prenatal visit;

(b) each group prenatal care visit is at least 1.5 hours in duration, with a. minimum of two women and a maximum of 20 women in participation; and

(c) no more than 10 group prenatal care visits occur per pregnancy. As used in this paragraph, "group prenatal care services" means a series of prenatal care visits provided in a group setting which are based upon the Centering Pregnancy model developed by the Centering Healthcare Institute and which include health assessments, social and clinical support, and educational activities;

(24) Expenses incurred for the provision of pasteurized donated human breast milk, which shall include human milk fortifiers if indicated in a medical order provided by a licensed medical practitioner, to an infant under the age of six months; provided that the milk is obtained from a human milk bank that meets quality guidelines established by the Department of Health and a licensed medical practitioner has issued a medical order for the infant under at least one of the following circumstances:

(a) the infant is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk or participate in breast feeding, or the infant's mother is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk in sufficient quantities or participate in breast feeding despite optimal lactation support; or

(b) the infant meets any of the following conditions:

(i) a body weight below healthy levels, as determined by the licensed medical practitioner issuing the medical order for the infant;

(ii) the infant has a congenital or acquired condition that places the infant at a high risk for development of necrotizing enterocolitis; or

(iii) the infant has a congenital or acquired condition that may benefit from the use of donor breast milk and human milk fortifiers, as determined by the Department of Health;

(25) Comprehensive tobacco cessation benefits to an individual who is 18 years of age or older, or who is pregnant. Coverage shall include: brief and high intensity individual counseling, brief and high intensity group counseling, and telemedicine as defined by section 1 of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61); all medications approved for tobacco cessation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and other tobacco cessation counseling recommended by the Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence Clinical Practice Guideline issued by the U.S. Public Health Service. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in this section:

(a) Information regarding the availability of the tobacco cessation services described in this paragraph shall be provided to all individuals authorized to receive the tobacco cessation services pursuant to this paragraph at the following times: no later than 90 days after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.473: upon the establishment of an

individual's eligibility for medical assistance; and upon the redetermination of an individual's eligibility for medical assistance;

(b) The following conditions shall not be imposed on any tobacco cessation services provided pursuant to this paragraph: copayments or any other forms of cost-sharing, including deductibles; counseling requirements for medication; stepped care therapy or similar restrictions requiring the use of one service prior to another; limits on the duration of services; or annual or lifetime limits on the amount, frequency, or cost of services, including, but not limited to, annual or lifetime limits on the number of covered attempts to quit; and

(c) Prior authorization requirements shall not be imposed on any tobacco cessation services provided pursuant to this paragraph except in the following circumstances where prior authorization may be required: for a treatment that exceeds the duration recommended by the most recently published United States Public Health Service clinical practice guidelines on treating tobacco use and dependence; or for services associated with more than two attempts to quit within a 12-month period;

(26) Provided that there is federal financial participation available, benefits for expenses incurred in conducting a colorectal cancer screening in accordance with United States Preventive Services Task Force recommendations. The method and frequency of screening to be utilized shall be in accordance with the most recent published recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force and as determined medically necessary by the covered person's physician, in consultation with the covered person.

No deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement shall be imposed for a colonoscopy performed following a positive result on a non-colonoscopy, colorectal cancer screening test recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force; **[**and**]**

(27) (a) Within 24 months of the effective date of P.L.2023, c.187 (C.30:4D-6u et al.), and conditional on the receipt of all necessary federal approvals and the securing of federal financial participation pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2023, c.187 (C.30:4D-6u), community-based palliative care benefits which shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(i) specialized medical care and emotional and spiritual support for beneficiaries with serious advanced illnesses;

(ii) relief of symptoms, pain, and stress of serious illness;

(iii) improvement of quality of life for both the beneficiary and the beneficiary's family; and

(iv) appropriate care for any age and for any stage of serious illness, along with curative treatment.

(b) Benefits provided under this paragraph shall include, but shall not be limited to, services provided by a hospice pursuant to paragraph (20) of subsection b. of this section, provided that:

(i) hospice services may be provided at the same time that curative treatment is available, to the extent that services are not duplicative;

(ii) hospice services may be provided to beneficiaries whose conditions may result in death, regardless of the estimated length of the beneficiary's remaining period of life; and

(iii) the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the Department of Human Services may include any other service deemed appropriate under the benefits provided under this paragraph.

(c) Providers authorized to deliver benefits provided under this paragraph shall include Medicaid-approved licensed hospice agencies, Medicaid-approved home health agencies licensed to provide hospice care, and other Medicaid-approved licensed health care providers.

(d) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to result in the elimination or reduction of covered benefits or services under the Medicaid program.

(e) This paragraph shall not affect a beneficiary's eligibility to receive, concurrently with services provided for in this paragraph, any services, including home health services, for which the beneficiary would have been eligible in the absence of this paragraph, to the extent that services are not duplicative; and

(28) (a) medically necessary treatment for [2]women with a diagnosis of[2] perimenopause, menopause, and symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause, including but not limited to:

(i) hormonal therapies such as hormone replacement therapy and bioidentical hormone treatments;

(ii) non-hormonal treatments, including medications to manage menopausal symptoms;

(iii)behavioral health care services;

(iv)pelvic floor physical therapy;

(v) bone health treatments, including screenings[2][,][2] and medications [2][, and supplements,][2] due to hormonal changes related to perimenopause and menopause;

(vi)preventative services [2]that have a rating of "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force[2] for early detection and treatment of health conditions related to perimenopause and menopause such as [2][cardiovascular disease,][2] osteoporosis[2][,][2] and cancer; and

(vii) counseling and education regarding menopause management.

(b) Individuals receiving medical assistance shall be provided with clear and accessible information regarding covered perimenopause and menopause related treatments.

(c) As used in this paragraph:

"Menopause" means the [1][natural and][1] permanent end of a female's menstrual cycle, diagnosed by a licensed medical provider after 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period.

"Perimenopause" means the transitional period leading to menopause, marked by fluctuating hormone levels and changes in menstrual cycles.

c. Payments for the foregoing services, goods and supplies furnished pursuant to this act shall be made to the extent authorized by

this act, the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto and, where applicable, subject to the agreement of insurance provided for under this act. The payments shall constitute payment in full to the provider on behalf of the recipient. Every provider making a claim for payment pursuant to this act shall certify in writing on the claim submitted that no additional amount will be charged to the recipient, the recipient's family, the recipient's representative or others on the recipient's behalf for the services, goods, and supplies furnished pursuant to this act.

No provider whose claim for payment pursuant to this act has been denied because the services, goods, or supplies were determined to be medically unnecessary shall seek reimbursement form the recipient, his family, his representative or others on his behalf for such services, goods, and supplies provided pursuant to this act; provided, however, a provided may seek reimbursement from a recipient for services, goods, or supplies not authorized by this act, if the recipient elected to receive the services, goods or supplies with the knowledge that they were not authorized.

d. Any individual eligible for medical assistance (including drugs) may obtain such assistance from any person qualified to perform the service or services required (including an organization which provides such services, or arranges for their availability on a prepayment basis), who undertakes to provide the individual such services.

No copayment or other form of cost-sharing shall be imposed on any individual eligible for medical assistance, except as mandated by federal law as a condition of federal financial participation.

e. Anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding, no payments for medical assistance shall be made under this act with respect to care or services for any individual who:

(1) Is an inmate of a public institution (except as a patient in a medical institution); provided, however, that an individual who is otherwise eligible may continue to receive services for the month in which he becomes an inmate, should the commissioner determine to expand the scope of Medicaid eligibility to include such an individual, subject to the limitations imposed by federal law and regulations, or

(2) Has not attained 65 years of age and who is a patient in an institution for mental diseases, or

(3) Is over 21 years of age and who is receiving inpatient psychiatric hospital services in a psychiatric facility; provided, however, that an individual who was receiving such services immediately prior to attaining age 21 may continue to receive such services until the individual reaches age 22. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the commissioner from extending medical assistance to all eligible persons receiving inpatient psychiatric services; provided that there is federal financial participation available.

f. (1) A third party as defined in section 3 of P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-3) shall not consider a person's eligibility for Medicaid in

this or another state when determining the person's eligibility for enrollment or the provision of benefits by that third party.

(2) In addition, any provision in a contract of insurance, health benefits plan, or other health care coverage document, will, trust, agreement, court order, or other instrument which reduces or excludes coverage or payment for health care-related goods and services to or for an individual because of that individual's actual or potential eligibility for or receipt of Medicaid benefits shall be null and void, and no payments shall be made under this act as a result of any such provision.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not apply to a trust agreement that is established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s.1396p(d)(4)(A) or (C) to supplement and augment assistance provided by government entities to a person who is disabled as defined in section 1614(a)(3) of the federal Social Security Act (42 31 U.S.C. s.1382c (a)(3)).

g. The following services shall be provided to eligible medically needy individuals as follows:

(1) Pregnant women shall be provided prenatal care and delivery services and postpartum care, including the services cited in subsections a.(1), (3), and (5) of this section and subsections b.(1)-(10), (12), (15), and (17) of this section, and nursing facility services cited in subsection b.(13) of this section.

(2) Dependent children shall be provided with services cited in subsections a.(3) and (5) of this section and subsections b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (10), (12), (15), and (17) of this section, and nursing facility services cited in subsection b.(13) of this section.

(3) Individuals who are 65 years of age or older shall be provided with services cited in subsections a.(3) and (5) of this section and subsections b.(1)-(5), (6) excluding prescribed drugs, (7), (8), (10), (12), (15), and (17) of this section, and nursing facility services cited in subsection b.(13) of this section.

(4) Individuals who are blind or disabled shall be provided with services cited in subsections a.(3) and (5) of this section and subsections b.(1)-(5), (6) excluding prescribed drugs, (7), (8), (10), 3 (12), (15), and (17) of this section, and nursing facility services cited in subsection b.(13) of this section.

(5) (a) Inpatient hospital services, subsection a.(1) of this section, shall only be provided to eligible medically needy individuals, other than pregnant women, if the federal Department of Health and Human Services discontinues the State's waiver to establish inpatient hospital reimbursement rates for the Medicare and Medicaid programs under the authority of section 601(c)(3) of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1983, Pub.L.98-21 (42 U.S.C. s.1395ww(c)(5)). Inpatient hospital services may be extended to other eligible medically needy individuals if the federal Department of Health and Human Services directs that these services be included.

(b) Outpatient hospital services, subsection a.(2) of this section, shall only be provided to eligible medically needy individuals if the

federal Department of Health and Human Services discontinues the State's waiver to establish outpatient hospital reimbursement rates for the Medicare and Medicaid programs under the authority of section 601(c)(3) of the Social Security Amendments of 1983, Pub.L.98-21 (42 U.S.C. s.1395ww(c)(5)). Outpatient hospital services may be extended to all or to certain medically needy individuals if the federal Department of Health and Human Services directs that these services be included. However, the use of outpatient hospital services shall be limited to clinic services and to emergency room services for injuries and significant acute medical conditions.

(c) The division shall monitor the use of inpatient and outpatient hospital services by medically needy persons.

h. In the case of a qualified disabled and working individual pursuant to section h6408 of Pub.L.101-239 (42 U.S.C. s.1396d), the only medical assistance provided under this act shall be the payment of premiums for Medicare part A under 42 U.S.C. ss.1395i-2 and 1395r.

i. In the case of a specified low-income Medicare beneficiary pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s.1396a(a)10(E)iii, the only medical assistance provided under this act shall be the payment of premiums for Medicare part B under 42 U.S.C. s.1395r as provided for in 42 U.S.C. s.1396d(p)(3)(A)(ii).

j. In the case of a qualified individual pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s.1396a(aa), the only medical assistance provided under this act shall be payment for authorized services provided during the period in which the individual requires treatment for breast or cervical cancer, in accordance with criteria established by the commissioner.

k. In the case of a qualified individual pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s.1396a(ii), the only medical assistance provided under this act shall be payment for family planning services and supplies as described at 42 U.S.C. s.1396d(a)(4)(C), including medical diagnosis and treatment services that are provided pursuant to a family planning service in a family planning setting.

(cf: P.L.2023, c.187, s.1)

12. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following enactment and shall apply to policies and contracts that are delivered, issued, executed or renewed on or after that date[2], except that policies and contracts that are delivered, issued, executed or renewed pursuant to P.L.1992, c.161 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) shall be effective on January 1, 2027[2].