

**Alabama Medicaid Agency  
Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Quarterly Report  
Plan First/Family Planning Program  
Demonstration Year 17, Quarter 3  
Fiscal Year 17 Quarter 4  
July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**

**Introduction**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency (AMA) Plan First Program began on October 1, 2000. It represents a collaborative effort between the AMA and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to increase the availability of family planning services to all women of childbearing age (19-55) with incomes at or below 141% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) that would not otherwise qualify for Medicaid or lost Medicaid coverage 60 days postpartum. Plan First was predicated on the recognized need for continued family planning once Medicaid maternity eligible enrollees were terminated after the postpartum period, and for those women who would not otherwise qualify for Medicaid unless they were pregnant. Enrollees can choose any Medicaid enrolled Plan First provider for their Plan First services, including health department clinics, community health centers and Non-Title X providers. Contraceptives, surgical sterilization services, lab tests, pap smears, HIV counseling and smoking cessation are all covered by Medicaid under the Waiver. The program's overall goal is to reduce unintended pregnancies.

**Executive Summary**

- **Brief Description of Demonstration Population**

The demonstration population includes women age 19 through 55 losing Medicaid eligibility 60 days postpartum with incomes up to 141% of the FPL (post Modified Adjust Gross Income (MAGI) conversion); women age 19 through 55 with incomes up to 141% of the FPL (post MAGI conversion) who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid; and men age 21 years or older with incomes up to 141% of the FPL (post MAGI conversion) for vasectomies. A standard income disregard of 5% of the FPL is applied if the individual is not eligible for coverage due to excess income.

- **Goal of Demonstration**

- Goal 1.** Increase the portion of income eligible women, ages 19 –55 enrolled in Plan First and reduce race/ethnicity and geographic disparities among enrollees.
- Goal 2.** Maintain the high level of awareness of the Plan First program among program enrollees.
- Goal 3.** Increase the portion of Plan First enrollees using family planning services initially after enrollment and in subsequent years of enrollment by improving access to services and increasing the rate of return visits for care.
- Goal 4.** Survey data suggest that approximately one third of Plan First enrollees are cigarette smokers, and 85% of these were advised by their family planning providers to quit smoking. Our goal is that 25% of Plan First service users (85% of the 30% who are smokers) will receive either a covered Nicotine Reduction Therapy (NRT) prescription, a referral to the Quit Line or both.

**Goal 5.** Maintain birth rates among Plan First service users that are lower than the estimated birth rates that would be occurring in the absence of the Plan First demonstration.

**Goal 6.** Increase the usage of the Plan First Waiver by making sterilizations available to males ages 21 years or older.

- **Program Highlights**

Effective January 1, 2015, vasectomy and vasectomy related services were added as covered services for men age 21 years or older with incomes up to 141% of the FPL (post MAGI conversion).

Demonstration Year 16	Begin Date	End Date	Quarterly Report Due Date (60 days following end of quarter)
Quarter 1	January 1	March 31	May 31
Quarter 2	April 1	June 30	August 30
Quarter 3	July 1	September 30	November 30
Quarter 4	October 1	December 31	February 28

- **Significant Program Changes**

On November 29, 2016, AMA submitted a formal waiver amendment to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for consideration of adding care coordination for males enrolled in Plan First for vasectomy services. CMS approved this amendment on June 28, 2017.

On June 15, 2017, the Alabama Medicaid Agency submitted an 1115(a) Waiver extension application request to CMS for consideration of extending the 1115 Family Planning Waiver Demonstration for a period of five (5) years. The Waiver extension request is still under review by CMS.

- **Policy Issues and Challenges**

AMA implemented a new policy for the provision of care coordination services for males.

**Enrollment**

Men age 21 and older can now receive vasectomies and care coordination for vasectomy related services. Men may complete a simplified shortened application, Form 357, the Joint Paper Application (Single Streamline Application) or the on-line application at [insurealabama.org](http://insurealabama.org), as applicable. An eligibility determination must be completed using poverty level eligibility rules and standards. Eligibility will only be for a 12-month period; therefore, retro-eligibility and renewals are not allowed. If the individual has completed the sterilization procedure, but has not completed authorized follow-up treatments by the end of the 12-month period, a supervisory override will be allowed for the follow-up treatments. If the individual does not receive a vasectomy within the 12-month period of eligibility, the individual will have to reapply for Medicaid eligibility.

- **Enrollment Figures:** enrollees and participants within the Demonstration in addition to member months, as outlined in STCs 27 & 34. This Demonstration has three eligible populations, as described in STC16:

- Population 1: women losing Medicaid pregnancy coverage at the conclusion of 60 days postpartum
- Population 2: women who have an income at or below 146 percent of the FPL.
- Population 3: Men ages 21 or older with incomes up to 141 percent of the FPL for vasectomies.

DY 15	Quarter 1 (January – March 2015)				Quarter 2 (April-June 2015)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	5,340	5,185	0	111,144	4,280	2,891	0	108,546
# of Total Enrollees	5,340	5,185	0	111,144	4,280	2,891	0	108,546
# of Participants	*	*	*	31,316♦	*	*	*	29,760♦
# of Member Months	10,749	10,599	0	301,857	8,662	5,837	0	304,125

DY 15	Quarter 3 (July-September 2015)				Quarter 4 (October-December 2015)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	3,829	2,847	89	106,233	3,779	2,413	160	103,288
# of Total Enrollees	3,829	2,847	89	106,233	3,779	2,413	160	103,288
# of Participants	*	*	*	29,564♦	*	*	*	26,672♦
# of Member Months	7,637	5842	142	277,836	22,674	14,478	960	195,528

\*Currently AMA is unable to track Populations 1 & 2 ongoing as once a recipient “flips” from maternity to Plan First after the 60<sup>th</sup> postpartum day or is awarded Plan First coverage, they do not stay in that group and become part of the total population the following month – they do not stay in Population 1 (flips) or Population 2 (awards) ongoing. Likewise, there is no mechanism for tracking which flips or awards are active participants, only the active participants for the total population. AMA is also unable to track those enrolled with Express-lane Eligibility ongoing as markers identifying those recipients are removed when matching with SNAP and TANF data.

◆Of the total population of eligibles, this is the number of recipients with a billable service during the quarter (active participants).

DY 16	Quarter (1 January – March 2016)				Quarter 2 (April-June 2016)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	3411	2454	3	101,079	2,989	2,569	152	97,696
# of Total Enrollees	3411	2454	3	101,079	2,989	2,569	152	97,696
# of Participants	*	*	3	27,026◆	*	*	*	24,855◆
# of Member Months	20,466	14,724	18	197,613	17,934	15,414	912	190,308

DY 16	Quarter 3 (July-September 2016)				Quarter 4 (October-December 2016)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	2,727	2,570	166	95,034	2,647	2,206	156	91,770
# of Total Enrollees	2,727	2,570	166	95,034	2,647	2,206	156	91,770
# of Participants	*	*	*	22,528◆	*	*	*	17,252◆
# of Member Months	16,362	15,420	996	186,768	13,182	13,236	936	193,248

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◆Of the total population of eligibles, this is the number of recipients with a billable service during the quarter (active participants).

DY 17	Quarter 1 (January – March 2017)				Quarter 2 (April-June 2017)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	2,583	2,633	523	88,551	2,250	1,957	150	85,898
# of Total Enrollees	2,583	2,633	523	88,551	2,250	1,957	281	85,898
# of Participants	*	*	13	◆23,113	*	*	9	◆21,084
# of Member Months	15,498	15,798	3,138	162,351	13,500	11,742	900	179,268

DY 17	Quarter 3 (July-September 2017)				Quarter 4 (October-December 2017)			
	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Total Population
# of Newly Enrolled	3,291	1,191	148	◆◆4,630				
# of Total Enrollees	*	*	*	84,887	*	*	*	
# of Participants	*	*	*	◆21,806	*	*	*	◆
# of Member Months	6,661	2,415	321	240,771				

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◆Of the total population of eligibles, this is the number of recipients with a billable service during the quarter (active participants).

◆◆ The drastic difference in # of newly enrolled in Q3 2017 compared to previous quarterly is a result of reporting error in previous quarters. Newly enrolled should only be those NEW recipients enrolled for the reporting quarter.

## **Service and Providers**

- **Service Utilization**

Since Plan First began providing smoking cessation products and counseling to recipients on October 1, 2012, recipients have been taking advantage of the new benefit. ADPH referred 2,577 recipients for smoking cessation treatment and counseling. As of the April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017, ADPH had referred 37 Plan First recipients to the Alabama Quitline for smoking cessation treatment and counseling.

- **Provider Participation**

Providers must enroll with (AMA) to participate in the Plan First program, but participation is voluntary. Also, they must be in full compliance with federal civil rights and anti-discrimination legislation, provide services to clients until they elect to terminate care, provide family planning on a voluntary and confidential basis, and assure freedom of choice of family planning method unless medically contraindicated. The distribution of service users across providers have been fairly consistent over time and type of services offered by each provider type is consistent, with half of recipients using health department care and one quarter using private provider care. Currently all counties have public provider options for Plan First services. Currently there are 1772 Plan First Providers servicing Plan First recipients in Alabama.

## **Program Outreach Awareness and Notification**

### **General Outreach and Awareness**

Program outreach strategies have included relationship building and partnerships with other programs, such as maternal health programs, to link patients to Plan First. These efforts will continue in the future as they have proved an effective tool in reaching the targeted recipient population of young adults ages 19 – 29. Training of private providers in outreach strategies and promotions, such as marketing materials and flyers will continue to be a part of future efforts. Funding for these outreach programs comes from the State's Public Health Department. General community-based outreach, provided by ADPH Care Coordinators through the use of posters, brochures, presentations and booths at health fairs, continues to be an ongoing activity. Care Coordinators contact women by phone or mail who have just had a Medicaid delivery. These women are advised of their automatic enrollment in Plan First once their maternity coverage has ended and how they can obtain Plan First services.

Care Coordinators will also continue to ensure the placement of posters promoting the smoking cessation project for Plan First recipients in County Health Departments as well as sending them to Plan First private providers that they work with within the county. AMA can also provide the posters upon request to Plan First providers.

Updates, links, fact sheets and other sources of information about family planning services are accessible online to recipients and providers. This information can be found on AMA's website at <http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/> and ADPH's website at <http://alabamapublichealth.gov/>.

The Plan First hotline takes calls from recipients in search of referrals and information related to family planning.

In September, training was provided on the Plan First program and PT+3 at the Plan First provider's request. Educational materials were also left with the provider.

AMA will continue its efforts in provider outreach through brochures, "Alert" notices, website updates, and publications, such as the "Provider Insider". Training for new providers on the smoking cessation benefit can be accessed via ADPH television network's on-demand webcast.

**Program Evaluation, Transition Plan, and Monitoring**

AMA tracks complaints/grievances received from recipients and providers related to Plan First services. During this reporting period, there were no complaints or grievances received.

The quarterly audits submitted by the eleven Public Health Areas identified that, of the enrolled recipients receiving Plan First care coordination services, 6,223 received their annual face-to-face risk assessment and 4,034 were identified as high risk for an unintended pregnancy and offered care coordination. A total of 808 audits were completed for the reporting quarter and the compliance rate was 99%.

- **Monitoring**

AMA audited ADPH's Care Coordination program in September 2017. Findings were identified and a corrective action plan was implemented by ADPH. Funds in the amount of \$135.00 are also in the process of being recouped for services that were billed inappropriately. The case has been referred to Program Integrity for further review.

**Quarterly Expenditures**

	<b>Demonstration Year 15</b>			
	<b>January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015</b>			
	Service Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Administrative Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Total Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Expenditures as requested on CMS-37
Quarter 1 Expenditures	\$8,567,910.13	\$24,536.18	\$8,592,446.31	\$8,856,390.00
Quarter 2 Expenditures	\$7,957,903.81	\$40,225.70	\$7,998,129.51	\$9,328,719.00
Quarter 3 Expenditures	\$7,345,144.00	\$34,633.00	\$7,379,777.00	\$9,973,592.00
Quarter 4 Expenditures	\$10,633,801.00	\$80,837.00	\$10,714,638.00	\$8,600,338.00
<b>Total Annual Expenditures</b>	\$34,504,758.94	\$180,231.88	\$34,684,990.82	\$36,759,039.00

\*See chart on page 3 for reporting quarters and report due dates.

	<b>Demonstration Year 16</b> <b>January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016</b>			
	Service Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Administrative Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Total Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Expenditures as requested on CMS-37
Quarter 1 Expenditures	\$7,329,227.71	\$42,920.80	\$7,372,148.51	\$8,856,390.00
Quarter 2 Expenditures	\$7,933,696.33	\$53,669.58	\$7,987,365.91	\$9,328,719.00
Quarter 3 Expenditures	\$9,630,208.21	\$28,971.27	\$9,659,179.48	\$8,703,638.00
Quarter 4 Expenditures	\$6,521,975.60	\$64,089.56	\$6,586,065.16	\$8,019,613.00
<b>Total Annual Expenditures</b>	\$31,415,107.85	\$189,651.21	\$31,604,759.06	\$34,908,360.00

	<b>Demonstration Year 17</b> <b>January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017</b>			
	Service Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Administrative Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Total Expenditures as Reported on CMS-64	Expenditures as requested on CMS-37
Quarter 1 Expenditures	\$6,327,461.40	\$42,635.73	\$6,370,097.13	\$ 9,169,107.00
Quarter 2 Expenditures	\$7,479,338.48	\$42,949.58	\$7,522,288.06	\$9,169,107.00
Quarter 3 Expenditures	\$6,847,731.65	\$33,899.58	\$6,881,631.23	\$9,639,293.00
Quarter 4 Expenditures				
<b>Total Annual Expenditures</b>				



**Contraceptive Methods**

Please insert the state name, demonstration year, and start and end dates for the demonstration year *into the chart below*. Using this chart, please indicate the number of each contraceptive method dispensed in the previous demonstration year. If a state did not receive any claims for a specific contraceptive method in the last year, enter a zero (“0”). If a state does not cover a specific method under its demonstration, enter not applicable (“N/A”). The *number of unique contraceptive users* should identify the number of unique beneficiaries who received a given method in the previous year. The *data source* column should specify the type of data used to describe the specified contraceptive method (i.e., MMIS data, claims data, chart review, etc.).

<b>Alabama Plan First Demonstration – Contraceptive Methods</b>			
<b>Demonstration Year 15 (October 2015-September 2016)</b>			
	<b>Number of Contraceptive Method dispensed</b>	<b>Number of Unique Contraceptive Users</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
Male Condom	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female Condom	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sponge	N/A	N/A	N/A
Diaphragm	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pill	6,624	2,739	Paid claims
Patch	21	19	Paid claims
Ring	997	640	Paid claims
Injectable	35,795	15,114	Paid claims
Implant	2,092	1,998	Paid claims
IUD	586	581	Paid claims
Emergency Contraception	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sterilization	315	313	Paid claims

**Activities for Next Quarter**

AMA will collaborate with ADPH to ensure care coordination for males are implemented and that the service is visible in the community. AMA will continue to monitor utilization and quality. Queries will be reviewed to ensure valid reporting of data and the program will be analyzed to determine the decrease in utilization of services on a quarterly comparison.