AN ACT relating to Medicaid coverage for lactation support services and breastfeeding equipment.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 205 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The Department for Medicaid Services and any managed care organization with which the department contracts for the delivery of Medicaid services shall provide coverage for comprehensive lactation counseling, lactation consultation, and breastfeeding equipment.

(2) The coverage required by this section shall:

(a) Not be subject to:

1. Any cost-sharing requirements, including but not limited to copayments; or
2. Utilization management requirements, including but not limited to prior authorization, prescription, or referral, except as permitted in paragraph (d) of this subsection;

(b) Be provided in conjunction with each birth for the duration of breastfeeding, as defined by the beneficiary;

(c) For lactation counseling and lactation consultation, include:

1. In-person, one-on-one counseling or consultation, including home visits, regardless of location of service provision;
2. The delivery of counseling or consultation via telehealth, as defined in KRS 205.510, if the beneficiary requests telehealth counseling or consultation in lieu of in-person, one-on-one counseling or consultation; and
3. Group counseling, if the beneficiary requests group counseling in lieu of in-person, one-on-one counseling or consultation; and
(d) For breastfeeding equipment, include:

1. Purchase of a single-user, double electric breast pump, or a manual pump in lieu of a double electric breast pump, if requested by the beneficiary;

2. Rental of a multi-user breast pump on the recommendation of a licensed health care provider; and

3. Two (2) breast pump kits as well as appropriately sized breast pump flanges and other lactation accessories recommended by a health care provider.

(3) (a) The breastfeeding equipment described in subsection (2)(d) of this section shall be furnished within forty-eight (48) hours of notification of need, if requested after the birth of the child, or by the later of two (2) weeks before the beneficiary's expected due date or seventy-two (72) hours after notification of need, if requested prior to the birth of the child.

(b) If the department cannot ensure delivery of breastfeeding equipment in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection, an individual may purchase equipment and the department or a managed care provider with whom the department contracts for the delivery of Medicaid services shall reimburse the individual for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the individual, including any balance billing amounts.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Breast pump kit" means a collection of tubing, valves, flanges, bottles, and other parts required to extract human milk using a breast pump;

(b) "Lactation consultation" means the provision of lactation care and services by an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant or other licensed health care provider, including:

1. Lactation assessment:
2. Creation of a lactation care plan;

3. Lactation education; and

4. Recommendations for an instruction in the use of assistive devices;

and

(c) "Lactation counseling" means the provision of breastfeeding education and support services by an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant or other licensed health care provider, including:

1. Educating women and families on the health impacts of breastfeeding and human lactation;

2. Advocating for breastfeeding as the norm for feeding infants and young children;

3. Providing breastfeeding support, encouragement, and care to help women and families meet their breastfeeding goals; and

4. Identifying and, when appropriate, referring high-risk mothers for clinical treatment.

Section 2. If the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the Department for Medicaid Services determines that a waiver or any other authorization from a federal agency is necessary prior to the implementation of any provision of Section 1 of this Act, the cabinet or department shall, within 90 days after the effective date of this Act, request the waiver or authorization and shall only delay full implementation of those provisions for which a waiver or authorization was deemed necessary until the waiver or authorization is granted.