

Consistent Health Care for New Moms Makes a Difference

Bills at the Texas Legislature would allow new mothers to keep Medicaid coverage for 12 months after pregnancy rather than just two months.

Mary: Texas resident; Her Medicaid cuts off 60 days after pregnancy.

Jennifer: Arkansas resident & Mary's cousin, has coverage for a full year after pregnancy.



I have Medicaid coverage during my pregnancy. It helps me get prenatal care, catch medical issues early, and have a healthy baby boy.

I am diagnosed with diabetes early in pregnancy. I'm able to manage it during pregnancy through routine care and medications.

Medicaid cuts off 60 days after pregnancy and I become uninsured.



I develop complications from diabetes after pregnancy. My primary care doctor recommends I see a diabetes specialist, an endocrinologist.



I can't find an endocrinologist that will take me without insurance. I worry I can't afford to go to the doctor or hospital. I have trouble getting the insulin I need.



I access primary care services from my local safety-net clinic on a sliding fee scale, but they don't provide the specialty care that I need. Diabetes specialty care is not covered in HTW Plus.



My diabetes gets worse. I go into my second pregnancy with poorly managed diabetes meaning I am at much higher risk of maternal death and pregnancy complications. My baby is born with a congenital heart defect. My baby stays in the NICU for months, undergoes expensive surgeries, and has lifelong health issues and disabilities.



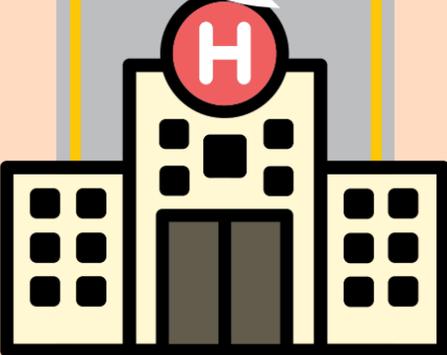
I am diagnosed with diabetes early in pregnancy. I keep it managed during pregnancy through routine care and medications, and I have a healthy baby girl.

Four months after my baby was born, I have complications from diabetes.

My primary care doctor recommended I see a diabetes specialist -- an endocrinologist. With coverage, I can make an appointment, see the doctor, and get follow-up medications I need.

I could get consistent help at a time when my baby really needs a healthy mom.

My diabetes stays managed and controlled as I enter my second pregnancy. The pregnancy and birth are healthy and now I have two beautiful baby girls.



Outcomes:

- Untreated medical issues
- Birth defects that have lifelong implications
- Pregnancy complications and risk of maternal death
- Higher costs to the state and Medicaid



Outcomes:

- Healthy mom and babies
- Reduced health care costs, fewer ER visits
- Lower costs to the state and Medicaid
- More economic security for the entire family