

To: TennCare Episodes Perinatal Providers and Other Stakeholders

Date: August 21, 2026

Subject: Temporarily Pausing the Perinatal Performance Period for 2027

Starting January 1, 2027, maternity care services will transition from global obstetric codes to an unbundled structure through the development of new CPT codes and the revision or removal of existing ones. The transition represents a major shift in how maternity care services are billed and reflected in claims data. In recognition of the substantial effects these changes will have on the Perinatal episode and performance scoring, the State will temporarily pause the Perinatal episode performance period for the 2027 performance year. Providers will continue to receive performance reports, however no gain-sharing or risk-sharing payments will be issued for 2027.

This pause ensures:

- Fairness during the transition to new CPT structures
- Prevention of unintended performance discrepancies
- Continued access to cost and quality insights through episode quarterly provider reports



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the Perinatal episode performance being paused?

To ensure accurate measure alignment and fair provider comparisons during the shift from bundled maternity care services to an unbundled structure starting January 1, 2027.

How long will the pause last?

The pause will apply to the 2027 performance year and will be reevaluated ahead of the 2028 performance year.

How will this affect provider performance reports?

Providers will continue receiving quarterly performance reports for cost and quality monitoring.

How will this pause affect gain-sharing and risk-sharing payments in 2027?

There will be no gain-sharing or risk-sharing payments for the Perinatal episode in the 2027 performance year.

Are providers required to change any workflows?

No. Clinical workflows and patient care processes remain the same.

Will maternity unbundling impact other episodes of care?

No. The coding changes specifically affect maternity care services associated with the Perinatal episode. TennCare will assess any downstream implications and provide updates as appropriate.

How can providers stay informed throughout 2027?

Providers should review quarterly episode reports, check their MCO provider portals, and watch for newsletters or updates issued by their MCO or TennCare.

Who should providers contact with questions?

Providers should contact their contracted MCO's provider relations team.