Navigating Reproductive Health Access in Los Angeles

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Objectives

- Review access to comprehensive reproductive health care services and where to find providers
- Explain how reproductive coercion impacts people experiencing IPV
- Discuss expansion of support services with doula care in California

Navigating access to comprehensive reproductive health care services

Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care Services

Reproductive life preferences

Contraception counseling & shared decision making

Birth spacing & preconception services

Pregnancy testing & pregnancy options counseling

Abortion & adoption services

Prenatal & perinatal care

Infertility care

Breast and cancer screening, STI screening

Gender affirming care

FDA Approved Contraception



Contraception by Effectiveness

Fertility

Awareness

HOW WELL DOES BIRTH CONTROL WORK?



Diaphragm

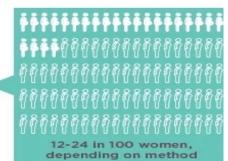
Withdrawal

For each of these methods to work, you or your partner have to use it every single time you have sex.

What is your chance of getting pregnant?





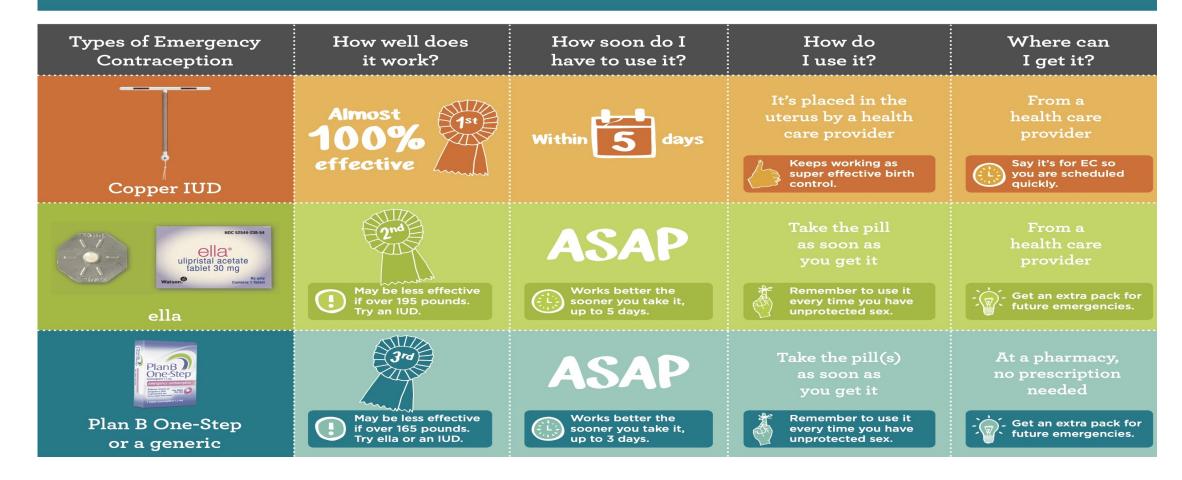


Condoms,

for men and women

Emergency Contraception

OOPS! EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION: BIRTH CONTROL THAT WORKS AFTER SEX



Myths About Contraception

Emergency Contraception Pills (ECP) cause abortion

Taking ECP's too many times will interfere with fertility

Taking ECP's today will cover me for sex tomorrow

Pulling out doesn't work so don't bother

IUDs are dangerous & can cause infections & infertility

IUDs are for older, married people or those that already have kids

Implant can move to another part of your body

^{1.} Noé G, Croxatto HB, Salvatierra AM, Reyes V, Villarroel C, Muñoz C, Morales G, Retamales A. Contraceptive efficacy of emergency contraception with levonorgestrel given before or after ovulation. Contraception. 2010 May;81(5):414-20.

^{2.} Trussell J. Contraceptive Failure in the United States, Contraception. 2004 Aug;70(2):896

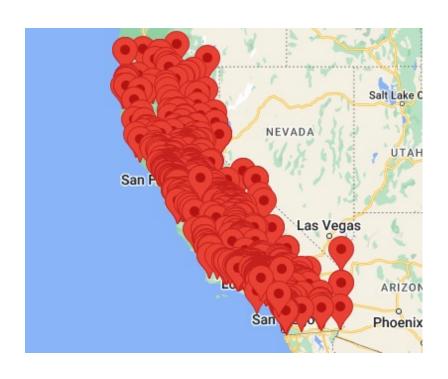
^{3.} Jatlaoui TC, Riley HEM, Curtis KM, The safety of intrauterine devices among young women: a systematic review, Contraception. 2016 Jan; 95(1):17

^{4.} Rocca ML, Palumbo AR, Visconti F, Di Carlo C. Safety and Benefits of Contraceptives Implants: A Systematic Review. Pharmaceuticals. 2021; 14(6):548.

The Sexual Health Visit: Taking a Sexual History

- Practices: types of sexual activity (e.g., vaginal, anal, or oral sex)
- Pregnancy prevention: current and future contraceptive use options, difficulties with use, preferred method
- Partners: number, gender (men, women, or both), and if partner has/had sex with another partner while still in a sexual relationship with the patient
- **Protection from STIs**: with whom they do or do not use condoms, monogamy and abstinence also can be discussed.
- Past STI's: for patient and partner(s)

Where to obtain reproductive health services



Payer Sources for SRH: FPACT Medi-Cal

FamilyPACT

- Family Planning services for persons who can become pregnant or cause a pregnancy
- Low income (200% FPL) or needing privacy
- California residents
- Website: familypact.org provider search

Medi-Cal

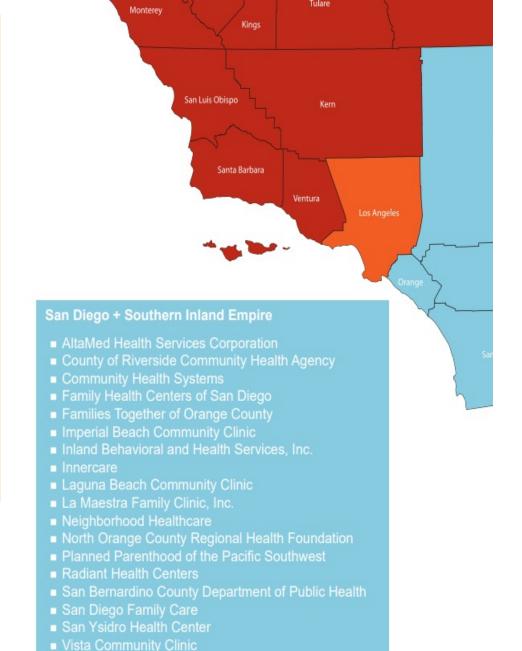
- Low income (138% FPL)
- Comprehensive medical services
- Pregnancy/abortion services
- CalFresh, SSI, CalWORKs, refugee assistance

Title X Federally Qualified Clinics: recognizes the intersection of SRH, SUD, IPV, and mental health

https://opa-fpclinicdb.hhs.gov/

Los Angeles + Southern Coast

- AltaMed Health Services Corporation
- Asian Pacific Health Care Venture
- Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero
- Comprehensive Community Health Centers
- East Valley Community Health Center, Inc.
- Eisner Health
- JWCH Institute
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- Northeast Valley Health Corporation
- Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles
- Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley, Inc.
- Regents of UCLA
- South Central Family Health Center
- St. John's Well Child and Family Center
- T.H.E. Clinic
- Valley Community Healthcare
- Venice Family Clinic
- Via Care Community Health Center
- Watts Healthcare Corportation
- Westside Family Health Center
- Wilmington Community Clinic



Services Related Sexual & Reproductive Health

Payer Sources for SRH: EWC IMPACT

Every Women Counts

- Free cervical cancer & breast cancer Screening
- <u>></u>40 years old
- Low income (<200% FPL) or needing privacy
- California residents
- Not getting these services through Medi-Cal

IMPACT

- Prostate Cancer treatment
- Low income (<200% FPL) or needing privacy
- California residents
- Not getting these services through Medi-Cal

Adoption Services

- Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
 - Adoption and related services for birth parents, adoptees and adoptive families
 - dcfs.lacounty.gov
- Latino Family Institute
 - Adoption related services
 - Ifiservices.org
- Children's Bureau
 - Foster-adoption agency
 - All4kids.org

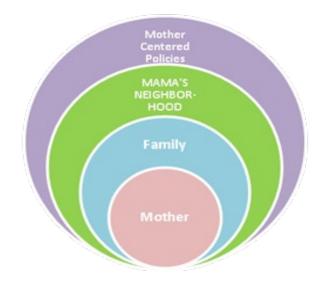
Perinatal Services

Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)

- Culturally competent services conception through 365 days postpartum for Medi-Cal patients
- Addition to standard obstetric services
- Enhanced services
 - Psychosocial needs & risks
 - Perinatal health education
 - Nutrition assessment
- Trimester Assessments
- Individualized Care Plans

Extension of the Postpartum Period – April 20232

Services up to 12 months after delivery



Addressing:

- Substance Use smoking, alcohol, drug use
- Social Insecurity food, housing scarcity, social support
- Mental Health depression, anxiety, psychiatric diagnosis, IPV
- Biomedical Risk previous preterm birth, short cervix, infections, hypertension, diabetes, obesity



MAMA'S Neighborhood: LA County DHS Perinatal Program

Maternity

<u>A</u>ssessment

844-37-MAMAS

Management

Access and

Service synergy

throughout the **Neighborhood** for health

Addressing Preterm Birth

Abortion Reproductive Coercion LA County Safe Haven



Before we begin the conversation...

- Abortion can be a sensitive topic.
- Our thoughts and beliefs about abortion have been shaped by our lived experience.
- Our role is to understand & share facts with survivors so they can make their own choices.



Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022)



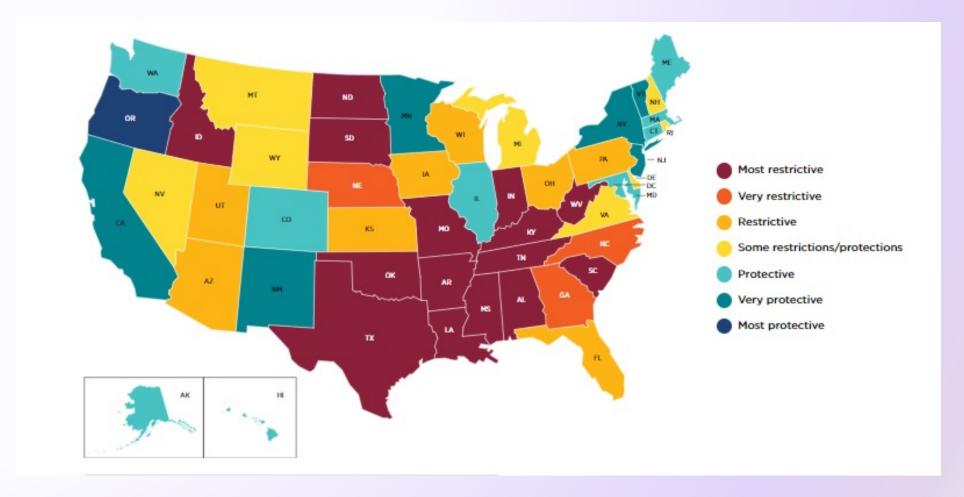
- U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade on June 24th, 2022.
- Immediately eliminated the constitutional right to abortion.
- Abortion policy is now left up to each state.
- Many states now criminalize abortion and restrict access.

^{1.} Natalia Vega Varela, Nancy L. Cohen, Neisha Opper, Myriam Shiran, and Clare Weber, "The State of Reproductive Health in the United States: The End of Roe and the Perilous Road Ahead for Women in the Dobbs Era " Gender Equity Policy Institute, January 19, 2023. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7548698

^{2.} The United States Supreme Court Ends the Constitutional Right to Abortion. (2022, June 27). Www.commonwealthfund.org. https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2022/united-states-supreme-court-ends-constitutional-right-abortion



Map of Abortion Restrictions in the U.S.



The map reflects state policies in effect as of October 17, 2023



"Other states are shrinking the rights of pregnant women, girls, and other birthing people — but not here in Los Angeles County. We welcome those who live outside of California to travel here to receive reproductive health services. It is our collective responsibility to uphold abortion and reproductive healthcare services as a fundamental right"

Hilda Solis, LA County Board of Supervisors, 1st District





Impact of abortion bans and restrictions

- State-imposed restrictions on abortion care result in more women "turned away" and experiencing negative physical and mental health, social and economic consequences of forced birth.
- State abortion bans create mortal threats to birthing people suffering from miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, and other complications.
- State-imposed restrictions on abortion care affect all people seeking reproductive health care, even in states where abortion remains legal.
- State-imposed restrictions on abortion care disproportionately impact certain communities.



Populations who Face Barriers to Abortion and Reproductive Health Care in Los Angeles County

People with low incomes

BIPOC

Immigrants

Youth (esp. system involved)

People with disabilities

LBQ women; TGI people

Incarcerated and re-entry populations

People with substance use disorder/MH

Unhoused people

People
experiencing
domestic
violence/
intimate
partner
violence and
other forms
of control



IPV and Abortion Access

- Individuals often cite their partner's abuse as the reason for seeking an abortion.
 - Describe not wanting to expose children to violence or feeling that a baby will bind them to an abusive partner.
- Lack of control over reproductive health decisions can lead to unintended pregnancy (pregnancy that is unwanted or mistimed). People with unintended pregnancies may seek abortion.



Reproductive Coercion

- Any behavior that seeks to maintain power and control over someone's reproductive health.
- May involve use of force, verbal threats, pestering, tampering with birth control methods, or other actions.
- Reproductive coercion may or may not involve explicit violence or force, but all forms of reproductive coercion are abuse.
- Is associated with increased risk for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and post-traumatic stress disorder.

^{1.} Miller E, Decker MR, McCauley HL, Tancredi DJ, Levenson RR, Waldman J, Schoenwald P, Silverman JG. Pregnancy coercion, intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy. Contraception. 2010 Apr;81(4):316-22. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2009.12.004.

^{2.} ang DL, Salazar LF, Wingood GM, DiClemente RJ, Mikhail I. Associations between recent gender-based violence and pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, condom use practices, and negotiation of sexual practices among HIV-positive women. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2007;46:216–221.



Reproductive coercion can look like:

Birth control sabotage:
Interfering with a partner's birth control without their consent:

- Refusing to wear a condom,
- Removing a condom without partner's consent ("stealthing")
- Destroying or tampering with birth control pills, rings, patches, intrauterine contraception, etc.
- Withholding money for birth control purchase
- Failing "to pull out" after previously agreeing to do so



Reproductive coercion can also look like:

Attempts to block access to reproductive health care.

One partner influences the other's reproductive choices by instilling a sense of fear, powerlessness or hopelessness.

Pregnancy pressure:
An attempt to control the outcome of a pregnancy, by coercing the victim into or out of a pregnancy.



Protecting Survivor Access & Privacy in Healthcare

- People of any age in CA can access birth control or pregnancy-related care, including abortion, without parental consent.
- People age 12+ in CA can also receive care for testing, treatment, or prevention of STDs/HIV, including vaccines for HPV & Hepatitis B, without parental consent.
- CA healthcare providers are banned from releasing medical records of people seeking abortion care to law enforcement (Office of Governor).

National Center for Youth Law



Contraception Tips for Survivors Experiencing Birth Control Sabotage

- Discreet and longer-acting forms of birth control are available, such as intrauterine devices (IUD), also known as intrauterine contraception (IUC).
- Clinicians can cut IUC strings short
- Clinician can provide emergency contraception in a plain envelope.
- Find more information at <u>Pregnant Survivors</u> and the <u>Take Control Initiative.</u>



Contraception Access for Survivors Experiencing Birth Control Sabotage



- Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (FPACT) is an insurance option for CA residents.
- Confidential program for individuals with low incomes— covers prescription and over-the-counter birth control methods, STI testing & treatment, HIV testing & more.
- For survivors unable to maintain confidentiality in their health insurance plans, refer them to enroll in Family PACT.



Resource Guide: AbortionSafeHaven.LACounty.gov:



- 1. Abortion providers in LA County
- 2. Information on national in-clinic & medical abortion sites
- 3. Abortion funding
- 4. Contraception providers
- 5. Mental health support
- 6. Abortion & contraceptive rights in California
- 7. Doula support
- 8. Crisis pregnancy centers

WHO PROVIDES ABORTIONS IN LA COUNTY?



MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES TOOLS & INFORMATION TEENS PARTNERS & OTHER LINKS ABOUT

MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES

These resources are available in Los Angeles County for anyone who needs abortion care, family planning care, or related services. Below, you can also find information about clinics that offer information and services about abortion, but do not actually provide them

We will regularly update the list to reflect the changing landscape of abortion access and reproductive health care in the County as the Safe Haven is developed

Providers: If you offer abortion services, family planning services, and other related care that should be listed here, please contact the Office of Women's Health AbortionLAC@ph.lacounty.gov.



Who Provides Abortions in LA













Where Can I Find Doula Support?

Abortion care is available and accessible in LA County. Abortion is covered by health insurance in California, including Medi-Cal. Note that all people with low incomes in California have access to Medi-Cal during pregnancy, regardless of mmigration status. Abortion can be performed with medication (pills) or through in-clinic procedure, depending on patient preference, individuals' health status and living situation, and the stage of pregnancy.

In some cases, people's private obstetricians/gynecologist (ob-gyn) physicians or nurse practitioners/nurse midwives can provide abortion care when it's needed. In most cases, abortion is accessed through specialized health care providers.

Abortion providers in Los Angeles County include:

Cedars Sinai | Family Planning Program

https://www.cedars-sinai.org/programs/gynecology/clinical-programs/family-planning.html

310-423-9268 (Open Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm)

In person clinic that offers a full range of family planning services as well as medical and surgical abortion care.

Choix

www.choixhealth.com

858-203-0531 (Open Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm PST)

Choix is a private telemedicine clinic providing sexual and reproductive healthcare in California, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, and Virginia.

FPA Women's Health

https://www.fpawomenshealth.com/abortion

Call or Text 877-883-7264 (Open 8am - 5pm)

In person, online and telehealth medicine women's health care clinic that provides gynecology, birth control, abortion and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing.

25 clinics available in CA

https://www.fpawomenshealth.com/telehealth

Her Care

https://hercare.org/

213-516-8580

Private family planning, cosmetic surgery, and abortion provider for women ages 15-65 in three LA County locations.

LA County Department of Health Services (DHS)

https://dhs.lacounty.gov/

DHS provides comprehensive reproductive health services including preconception health, sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening, contraceptive care, and abortion.

Luna Flow

















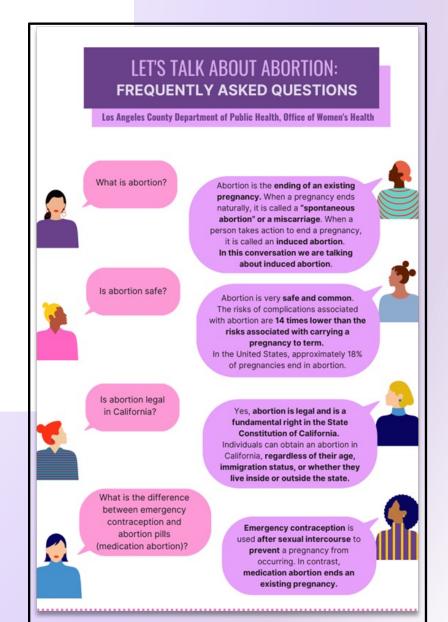
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<u>abortionsafehaven.lacounty.gov</u>



Doula Services



Community Doulas



Jessica Miller

Survivor, LVN, CBE, CLS, Full Spectrum Doula
President of Jurupa Valley Doulas
Perinatal Support Program
4th Generation Birthworker



Was Est. 2022 to provide support to the Historically Marginalized Communities of Jurupa Valley and

it's local surroundings.

Was the First Doula Group approved by California DHCS as Doula Benefits Providers.



What is a Doula?

"...Doulas are birth workers who provide health education, advocacy, and physical, emotional, and non-medical support for pregnant and postpartum persons before, during, and after childbirth, including support during miscarriage, stillbirth, and abortion. Doulas are not licensed and they do not require supervision..."

As defined by: https://www.dhcs.ca.gov





Do

Doulas work alongside the
Healthcare Team in collaboration
for the benefit
of the Client.

Doulas encourage clients to practice using the B.R.A.I.N acronym.

Doulas provide the client respect, support, and a safe space to learn how to voice informed choices.

Do Not

Doulas do not work for the Healthcare Team.

Doulas do not speak on behalf of client.

Doulas do not make choices for client.

Doulas do not impose own beliefs on client.



Support During Pregnancy



Doulas can be experts in various specialties and can provide support through first hand experience, evidence-based, religious-based, and traditional practices.

Doulas will bring a unique set of skills and knowledge to the table, allowing them to tackle the complex challenges of maternal mortality from multiple angles and deliver comprehensive solutions to their respective communities.

Examples of Pregnancy Support

Community Resources

- Support Groups
- Food Banks
- Transportation
- Home Visitation programs

Health Navigation

- Understanding the Health System
- Accompany client to visit or procedure

Childbirth Education

- Birthing techniques
- Understanding stages of pregnancy
- Understanding stages of labor
- Lactation

Advocacy

- Teaching client the importance of Self-Advocacy
- B.R.A.I.N (Benefits, Risks, Alternative, Intuition, Nothing)
- What is Informed Consent





Examples of Abortion Support

Client-centered Care

- Provide support, during, and after an abortion.
- Support varies by client and their emotional, physical, and spiritual needs.





Can look like

- Meeting at the clinic
- Holding hand
- Providing comfort during and after procedure Honoring the loss of life
- Providing bereavement support
- Honoring loss with a Ceremony
- Develop and implement strategic post-abortion support plan to promote client to go through stages of grief without feeling judged for their reproductive choice.







Self reported reasons for Abortion

According to: https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/reasons-for-abortions



Finances

- Housing Insecurity
- Unsuitable Housing
- Food Insecurity
- Teenager
- · Lack of Medical Insurance
- Other Responsibilities (Older children)

Timing

- Age related
- Future opportunities
- · Lack of maturity
- Lack of Stability
- Pressured by others due to age

Partner

- Unsupported partner
- Not yet married
- Abusive partner
- Partner not wanting baby
- Unstable relationship



Self reported reasons for Abortion

According to: https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/reasons-for-abortions



Health

- Mental health
- Chemical dependency
- Worsening of own existing health
- Effects of drug use to fetus

Fatal

Fatal to pregnant person and chose to preserve own life:

- Severe Preeclampsia
- Cancer diagnosis
- Premature amniotic sac rupture causing intrauterine infection

Anomalies

Fetal anomalies:

- Genetic
- Structural
- Fatal
- Fetal Demise



List of Free Services or Funding



Est. 1929

24 Locations Across California

Abortion Support

Family Planning

Gynecology

Text 877-883-7264

Info@fpawomenshealth.com

FPA Women's Health



Helps by removing financial and

logistical barriers to abortion access.

Multi-State Effort

https://abortionfunds.org/contact/

National Network of Abortion Funds



Healthcare Provider can contact them on Patient's behalf for funding of Abortion Services and emergency contraceptive https://wrrap.org/assistance-services/

Women's Reproductive Rights
Assistance Project

California Momnibus Act

- Was signed by Governor Gavin Newsome in 2021.
- Aimed to improve perinatal outcomes and address racial disparities in maternal and infant health.
- Several counties participated in Pilot Doula Access
 Programs which provided families with access to Free
 Doula Support prior to it officially going into effect
 January 1, 2023 all across the State of California for
 Medi-Cal qualifying families.





Medi-Cal Doula Benefits

The following are the services covered by Medi-Cal:

- 1 initial visit.
- 8 visits (prenatal/postpartum)
- Support during labor and delivery (Vaginal, Cesarean Section, VBAC, Abortion, Miscarriage, Stillborn)
- 2 Postpartum visits of 3 hours
- Up to 9 additional postpartum visits





Requirements Needed

The following are the requirements for Doula Benefit Services covered by Medi-Cal:

- Written recommendation in beneficiary's record.
- Standing order for doula services by plan, physician group or other group by a licensed provider.
- Standard form signed by a licensed provider that a beneficiary can provide to a doula.
- Currently Pregnant or have been pregnant within the past 12 months.





Any Questions?



Today's Presentation was in Honor of:
Mi Abuela Mercedes Cabrera-Tinoco
Who will forever be 39 years old
as a result of
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care



Trina Blackwell

Questions? Comments?

THANKYOU.