

Reducing Barriers to Prenatal Care

In 1985 the Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP) was implemented to improve the access to care and support services for lower income women. PCAPs provide outreach, presumptive eligibility,¹ physical and laboratory testing, risk assessment, health education and counseling, HIV counseling and testing, parenting education, nutrition screening, and referrals to WIC services and other community resources.² For these services the care providers are reimbursed at an enhanced Medicaid rate. In the Capital Region there are four PCAP programs, two in Albany and two in Schenectady. All four of these PCAPs are located near urban centers in their respective communities.

As a complement to PCAP urban programs, the Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS program) was developed to address the women in need living in rural setting who do not have access to urban centers. MOMS providers deliver the medical components of prenatal care in a private practice, and usually refer clients to community-based agencies who can best meet their other needs. Currently there is one MOMS provider in the Capital Region. refer to Section III for more discussion of access issues.

¹ Presumptive eligibility is a streamlined application and eligibility determination process in which a pregnant woman is "presumed eligible" for Medicaid and is thus entitled to receive the full range of prenatal services during the 45-day Medicaid determination period.

² Public Health Law, Section 85 40.