

# 13 Month Contraceptive Dispensing

An insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, or health maintenance organization that provides coverage for drugs may not issue, deliver, execute, or renew any health insurance policy, contract, or evidence of coverage on a group, individual, blanket, franchise, or association basis which does not include coverage for up to a 13-unit supply of FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives which may be furnished or dispensed all at one time or over the course of the 13 months at the discretion of the health care provider. The health insurance plan, nonprofit health service corporation, or health maintenance organization shall reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity per unit, including dispensing fees, for furnishing or dispensing an extended supply of contraceptives.

## Why this legislation is needed:

- Birth control has had a transformative impact on the lives of women and families. Access to contraception enables women to finish school, stay in the workforce, and control the timing and spacing of their children.
- Access to affordable contraceptive care allows a woman to be as healthy as possible before pregnancy, leading to healthier pregnancies and healthier babies, allows for adequate birth spacing, and offers important noncontraceptive benefits for women with some health conditions. Conditions like endometriosis that are treated with the pill can lead to loss of work if not treated.
- Timely and consistent access to affordable birth control is critical for ensuring that women can accurately and consistently use the birth control that meets their needs. Yet private health insurance plans often limit the supply of birth control a woman may obtain at one time, typically limiting access to a one-cycle or three-cycle supply.
- One of the most successful, proven methods to increase birth control continuation and avoid unintended pregnancies is increasing the supply of contraceptives provided at one time.
- Access to a greater supply of birth control at one time leads to cost savings and even improves access to preventive care.
- A one-year supply of contraceptives is the standard practice among Title X family planning service sites and recommended by leading health experts, providers, and medical associations.

NCJW St. Louis is inspired by Jewish values to advance social and economic justice for all women, children and families.



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