

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 553

(Delegate Taveras, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Maternal Health Self-Measured Blood
Pressure Monitoring

This bill requires Medicaid, beginning January 1, 2026, to provide coverage for self-measured blood pressure monitoring to recipients who (1) are pregnant; (2) are postpartum; or (3) have been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, or a cardiometabolic disease. Coverage must include (1) the provision of validated home blood pressure monitors and (2) reimbursement of health care provider and other staff time, specifically for patient training, transmission of blood pressure data, interpretation of blood pressure readings and reporting, remote patient monitoring, and the delivery of co-interventions, including educational materials or classes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: As Medicaid currently covers self-measured blood pressure monitoring, there is no meaningful fiscal impact to apply such coverage to specified diagnoses. Revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: Health care providers at local health departments may receive reimbursement for services, as specified under the bill. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 669 and 670 of 2022 require Medicaid to provide coverage for self-measured blood pressure monitoring for all Medicaid recipients diagnosed with uncontrolled high blood pressure. Coverage must include (1) the provision of validated

home blood pressure monitors and (2) reimbursement of health care provider and other staff time used for patient training, transmission of blood pressure data, interpretation of blood pressure readings and reporting, and the delivery of co-interventions, including educational materials or classes, behavioral change management, and medication management.

“Self-measured blood pressure monitoring” means the regular management of blood pressure by the patient outside the clinical setting, either at home or elsewhere, requiring the use of a home blood pressure measurement device by the patient. “Validated home blood pressure monitor” means a blood pressure measurement device that has been validated for accuracy and is listed in the U.S. Blood Pressure Validated Device Listing.

MDH advises that it covers blood pressure monitoring in the home, including provision of validated home blood pressure monitors and reimbursement for patient training, data transmission, interpretation of readings and reporting, and co-intervention deliveries. Coverage is available to any Medicaid participant who qualifies based on medical necessity and is capable of using the equipment regardless of diagnosis. No prior authorization is required.

Participants may receive up to 60 days of monitoring per episode of care, and up to four episodes of care per year. MDH reimburses providers at a rate of \$125 per member per month to cover equipment installation in the patient’s home, patient education on how to use the device, and ongoing monitoring of the data collected. The cost of the equipment is covered separately under MDH’s durable medical equipment benefit.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 94 (Senator Ellis) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
rh/ljm

First Reader - January 24, 2025

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Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510