What These Findings Mean

Medicaid reimbursement for immediate postpartum LARC is an effective tool for providing contraception access but further efforts are needed to increase adoption across hospitals and providers. Policy implementation has been uneven which may contribute to within-state inequities, especially in rural areas or those served by Catholic-owned hospitals. It remains important to understand within-state differences to promote wider uptake across hospitals. In addition, this policy increases the convenience and effectiveness of contraceptive options prior to hospital discharge, but it is imperative that care is also patient-centered to ensure contraceptive autonomy.

More About This Study

This longitudinal study examined the impact of Medicaid reimbursement policy changes on immediate postpartum LARC uptake. Using data available through the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), researchers were able to investigate the policy’s effect in states whose Medicaid programs implemented reimbursement changes between 2014 and 2015 and had inpatient data available from 2011 to 2017. In four states (all except Georgia), HCUP hospital discharge data were linked to the American Hospital Association’s Annual Survey which enabled identification of facility teaching and rural status, Catholic affiliation, and obstetric level of care. LARC billing codes were adapted from the Office of Population Affairs to create an indicator for receipt of an immediate postpartum LARC. An interrupted time series design was used to estimate the extent to which the Medicaid reimbursement change impacted provision of immediate postpartum LARC. Each state was analyzed separately at the hospital-quarter level.


For more information about this study, contact Jessica Cohen at cohenj@hsph.harvard.edu. For more information about the NIHCM Foundation Investigator-Initiated Research Grant Program, contact Cait Ellis at cellis@nihcm.org.
Immediate Postpartum Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Placement: Pre- and Post-Medicaid Reimbursement Policy


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