

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2011
Update to “Claims for Obstetric Deliveries to Require a Modifier”

To ensure compliance with the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) update posted on August 9, 2011; concerning Texas Medicaid restricting all caesarean sections, labor inductions, or deliveries following labor induction to certain criteria:

El Paso First Health Plans, Inc. (El Paso First) will require that claims that are submitted for obstetric deliver procedure codes 59409, 59410,59514,59515,59612, 59514, 59620, or 59622 use the appropriate required modifier. Claims for deliveries that are submitted without one of the below indentified required modifiers will be denied. Cesarean sections, labor inductions, or any deliveries following labor inductions that are occur prior to 39 weeks of gestation and are not considered medically necessary will be subject for retrospective review. Claims for non-medically-indicated Cesarean section, labor induction, or any delivery following labor induction that fail to meet criteria will be denied.

Note: Detail diagnosis to identify medically necessary cesarean sections, labor inductions or any delivery prior to 39 weeks is strongly recommended.

TMHP Required Modifiers:

Modifier	To Indicate
U1	Medically necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation
U2	Delivery at 39 weeks of gestation or later
U3	Non-Medically necessary delivery prior to 39 weeks of gestation

El Paso First has implemented a procedure for performing random retrospective clinical reviews on the above mentioned obstetric procedures. El Paso First will initiate a random monthly audit and request the facility performing the induction or cesarean section to submit the mother's delivery summary, history and physical and pre-delivery progress notes. Upon receipt of these medical records, El Paso First will review each case and determine if the procedure was medically necessary.

If the medical review reveals medical necessity for the induction, El Paso First will take no further action on the claim. If it is determined through medical review that the induction or cesarean section procedure was performed before 39 weeks of gestation and was not medically necessary; El Paso First will notify the Providers and Facilities involved in rendering the services concerning the determination of lack of medical necessity for the procedure and the recoupment of payment associated with these services.

Information gathered from the chart reviews will be monitored by El Paso First's Quality Improvement Department for evaluation if further medical record reviews are deemed necessary. All other prior authorization process regarding deliveries will remain unchanged. If you have any questions concerning El Paso First's procedures regarding non-medically necessary inductions and cesarean section deliveries please contact your Provider Representative at 915-532-3778 ext. 1507 or ext. 1071.