

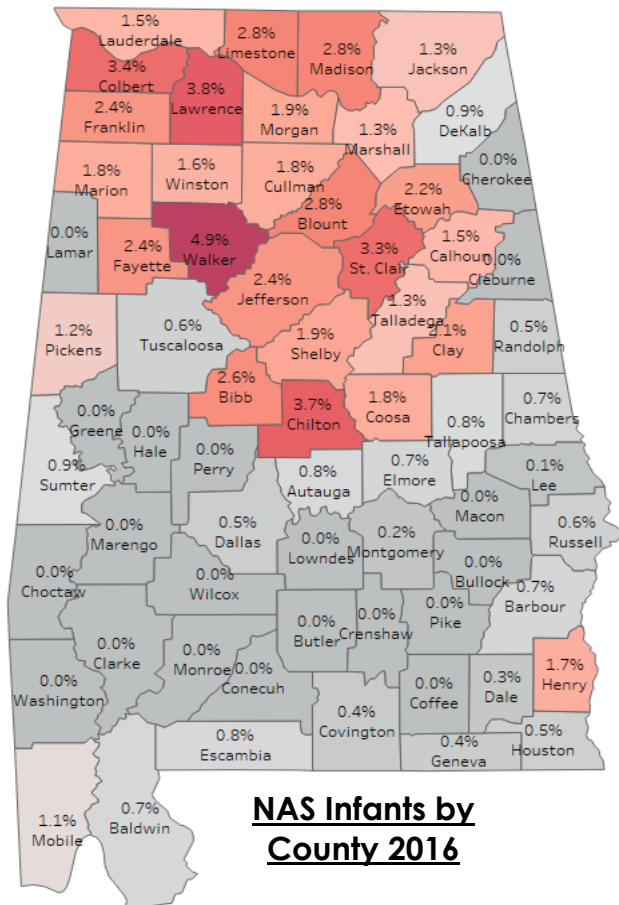


*Our goal is to provide care coordination services to help you take charge of your healthcare.*

*We provide services for maternity, primary care, and family planning for Alabama Medicaid Recipients in Cullman, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan Counties.*

## Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and the Growing Opioid Epidemic

- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is neonatal withdrawal resulting from maternal use of opioids during pregnancy.
- NAS is a national epidemic with 1.5 infants born per hour resulting in an increase in hospital cost and negative fetal outcomes.
- The total NICU cost for those babies diagnosed with NAS from 2010-2013 was \$23.3 million dollars.
- Mothers of NAS diagnosed infants who have no Medicaid opioid prescription claims are likely seeking opioids elsewhere and have worse fetal outcomes such as a longer stay in the NICU. 67% of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Alabama Medicaid patients results from mothers without any claims for opioid prescriptions that were paid for by Medicaid.
- High opioid use during pregnancy which is managed by a physician results in infants with decreased severity and better outcomes, as evidenced by shorter lengths of stay in the NICU and reduced NICU costs.



**NAS Infants by County 2016**

# BONUS



## Bonus Payments for Chlamydia Screenings in Women Ages 21-24

- 1 in 2 sexually active young people will get an STD before the age of 25, and most will not know that they have an STD.
- The amount of cases of Chlamydia diagnosed in Alabama in 2019 was 9% higher than the number of cases reported in 2016.
- In an effort to increase the amount of screenings, Alabama Medicaid has designated that chlamydia screenings in women ages 21-24 be a Quality Measure.
- The statewide baseline for Chlamydia screening in women ages 21-24 is 9.7%.
- In order to receive the bonus payment, providers must achieve 54.3% completion rate.



Even though billing is now fee-for-service with Alabama Medicaid, North Alabama Community Care still needs the prenatal flowsheet, lab summary page, labor and delivery summary and postpartum visit notes. These may be faxed to 256-265-1300 or emailed to Christine Smith at [christine.smith@northalcc.org](mailto:christine.smith@northalcc.org).

If you need a one-time referral for services completed prior to a patient's enrollment with NACC, please send your request to Sindyetta Summers at [sindyetta.summers@northalcc.org](mailto:sindyetta.summers@northalcc.org).

Any questions about fee-for-service billing will need to be answered by a DXC representative at 1-855-523-9170.

## Billing in the ACHN



## Early Entry into Prenatal Care

According to the March of Dimes Foundation, in Alabama in 2016, 1 in 14 infants was born to a woman receiving late or no prenatal care, and 1 in 6 infants was born to a woman receiving inadequate prenatal care.

March of Dimes worked with an FQHC to identify barriers to early entry prenatal care and develop an improvement plan to lessen or eliminate these barriers. Barriers such as language barriers, lack of childcare, lack of transportation, conflict between work hours and clinic service hours, and inability of the patient to obtain a pregnancy test were considered the most frequent barriers to early entry into care. Solutions to these barriers included offering free pregnancy testing, longer office hours, utilizing a patient navigator to help with language and literacy barriers as well as childcare and transportation issues.

In an effort to improve North Alabama's early entry into prenatal care, please utilize North Alabama Community Care's services to assist our mutual patients with arranging for transportation, assisting with community resources, and aiding patients in applying for Medicaid.

**North Alabama  
Community Care**

**3304 Westmill Drive  
Huntsville, AL  
35805**

**Toll Free Phone:  
(855) 640-8827**

**Web Site:  
[www.northalcc.org](http://www.northalcc.org)**

# Plan First Program



Alabama's Plan First Program is a family planning program for women and men that covers family planning services only. With Plan First, mothers and babies have a better chance of being healthy. Parents can better provide for their family, both financially and emotionally. Children get more time and attention. Please note that primary care/medical care is not covered by Plan First.

Plan First provides for women ages 19 to 55:

- A yearly family planning exam
- Care support from a social worker or nurse
- Some types of birth control such as, birth control pills and Depo-Provera shots
- Tubal ligation (tube tying) for women 21 years or older
- Lab work such as, testing for pregnancy and STDs
- Help in planning when to have a baby

Plan First provides for men ages 21 or older:

- Vasectomy (permanent birth control for men)

**If you have a patient that is interested in the Plan First Program, please have them contact North Alabama Community Care at 1-855-640-8827.**