

Does Medicaid managed care impact obstetrical care and birth outcomes?

December 20 2019



Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

A new study shows that among a set of disadvantaged women, Medicaid managed care reduces the women's access to high-quality hospital services during pregnancy and delivery and was associated with worse birth outcomes, worse prenatal care, and a higher risk of inappropriate gestational weight gain. The specific results and their implications are reported in a study published in *Journal of Women's Health*.

Ji Yan, Ph.D., Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, was the author of the article entitled "[The Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on Obstetrical Care and Birth Outcomes: A Case Study.](#)" Dr. Yan based his findings on a dataset of disadvantaged [women](#) who had singleton births over a 10-year period, resulting in more than 78,300 mother-infant observations. The Medicaid managed care program under which these women received health care achieved [cost savings](#) by reducing the use of some high-tech obstetrical services and limiting access to high-quality hospital services. There was a price to pay, however, in maternal [health care](#) utilization and infant well-being.

Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Women's Health* and Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA, states: "This study emphasizes the need to be cautious in designing and implementing lower cost managed care programs for low-income obstetrical patients, as it demonstrates the possible negative outcomes for both mothers and their infants."

More information: Ji Yan, The Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on Obstetrical Care and Birth Outcomes: A Case Study, *Journal of Women's Health* (2019). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2019.7792](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2019.7792)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Citation: Does Medicaid managed care impact obstetrical care and birth outcomes? (2019, December 20) retrieved 3 February 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-12-medicaid-impact-obstetrical-birth-outcomes.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.