

# Denying payment reduces rate of early elective deliveries

April 6 2017

---



(HealthDay)—Implementation of a program denying payment to

providers for unnecessary early elective delivery is associated with a reduction in the rate of early elective deliveries, according to a study published in the March issue of *Health Affairs*.

Heather M. Dahlen, Ph.D., from the Medica Research Institute in Minnetonka, Minn., and colleagues examined the impact of a policy implemented by Texas Medicaid in 2011 to deny payment to providers for early elective delivery. The authors compared the effect on clinical care practice and [perinatal outcomes](#) in Texas relative to comparison states.

The researchers found that after the payment policy change there was a reduction in early delivery rates by as much as 14 percent in Texas; for births that were affected by the policy there were gains of almost five days in gestational age and 6 ounces in birthweight. The policy had a larger impact on early elective delivery for minority patients.

"Our findings suggest that even within states that have already begun voluntary efforts to reduce [early elective delivery](#) rates, Medicaid payment reform may lead to additional declines in these rates," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2017 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Denying payment reduces rate of early elective deliveries (2017, April 6) retrieved 18 April 2024 from  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-04-denying-payment-early-elective-deliveries.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.