

Press release of 20 September 2023

Women's health: Groupe Mutuel seals an innovative partnership with the "Doula CH" association.

Human support plays a major role in life, particularly during pregnancy. For this reason, Groupe Mutuel and the Swiss doula association "Doula CH" have signed an innovative agreement that will allow women and their families to benefit from customised support, the costs of which will be reimbursed by supplemental insurance.

Groupe Mutuel and the Swiss association "Doula CH" have sealed an innovative partnership. The aim of the agreement is twofold. Firstly, to enable insured women to be supported by a doula during pregnancy, without having to worry about whether costs are covered or not. Secondly, to further improve the care pathway and, therefore, women's health. Anne Corpataux, Vice-President of the Swiss doula association, is delighted. For her, *"this is fantastic news that will allow us to reach out to people who are reluctant to call upon us for financial reasons. We will be able to offer our services to a greater number of parents, providing them with customised support reimbursed by Groupe Mutuel, whose commitment to women's health and their families I would like to commend".*

For Céline Relecom, innovation specialist at Groupe Mutuel, this agreement is a further step towards improving women's health, particularly during pregnancy, which is such an important milestone in a woman's life. *"Human support makes a real difference. By signing this agreement with the Doula association, we are providing our insured persons with comprehensive follow-up and security since the members of the association are fully certified and have signed an ethics agreement, which is a guarantee of their professionalism".*

In concrete terms, Groupe Mutuel is committed to reimbursing a substantial flat-rate amount for support during pregnancy for persons who have taken out Premium or Optimum supplemental insurance. This new benefit will come into effect on 1 November 2023.

Doula services supplement those provided by midwives, rather than replacing them

The role of a doula is in no way to replace a midwife or gynaecologist. *"Our services are complementary to the traditional approach and we already work with all existing actors, in complete transparency. Very often, the response from midwives and gynaecologists is positive",* explained Anne Corpataux.

Support provided by a doula at birth (doula® birth support) is an ancient tradition whereby a trusted woman – in addition to the midwife – supports another woman during pregnancy. This centuries-old "profession" was rediscovered in 1970 in the United States following studies and observations carried out in various hospitals.

Experience and studies have shown that this type of support has a tangible impact on the birth process. As a result, childbirth becomes a more positive experience for both mothers and fathers, and their babies.



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About Groupe Mutuel

With over 2,800 employees throughout Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is at the service of 1.36 million private customers and 28,000 companies.

As the only comprehensive insurer in Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is the reference partner in the field of health and retirement benefits for private and corporate customers. Its turnover exceeds CHF 5.3 billion. Thanks to tailored solutions, whether in basic insurance (LAMal/KVG) or supplemental insurance (LCA/VVG), it is the third largest health insurer in Switzerland.

Groupe Mutuel also offers an extensive range of products in individual retirement benefits and patrimony insurance. Based in Martigny, the insurer provides companies of all sizes solutions with loss of earnings in the event of illness, accident insurance (LAA/UVG) and occupational pension plans (LPP/BVG).

In the field of corporate health insurance, Groupe Mutuel is ranked fifth nationwide.