

Post-Partum Depression Bill Summary

Periodic Screenings in Multiple Settings

- At least three required screenings in obstetrical setting, including:
 - One in first trimester (including risk assessment based on history of prior depression)
 - One in third trimester
 - One at 6-week post-partum visit
- At least four required screenings in pediatric setting, including:
 - One in first month of life (including risk assessment based on history of prior depression)
 - Three additional screenings at routine well-child visits during child's first year
- Providers must use a validated instrument for screens, to be determined by DPH.
- The Commonwealth and private insurers will establish a reimbursement structure for screenings, and are strongly encouraged to use existing billing codes.

Interventions

- Expand the Early Intervention Partnership Program (EIPP – a pregnancy and post-partum home-visiting program for at-risk women) from 9 to 13 sites

Collaborations

- A multidisciplinary taskforce will be established to promote collaboration, communication, and continuity of care, to be led by DPH. It will include representatives of relevant state agencies and initiatives, grassroots groups, professional groups, and national organizations.

Referrals

- The taskforce will facilitate the compilation of two referral lists for providers: a list of service providers for individual counseling, and a list of support groups around the state, including groups run by non-profits.
- The taskforce will investigate opportunities to link the referral lists with existing resources, such as the Parental Stress Hotline.

Statewide Professional Development and Trainings

- DPH will administer trainings around the state on screening tools, managing maternal responses, and maternal depression generally, building on previous agency trainings.
- DPH will develop a curriculum to expand opportunities for additional training, including web-based training materials.

Public Awareness Campaign

- DPH will develop and distribute culturally-sensitive, multi-lingual public awareness and education materials on maternal depression, building on their work in the Maternal and Infant Mental Health Project, and in consultation with community leaders.
- DPH will investigate partnering with graduate communications programs to establish effective social marketing strategies.