

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by Sen. MORAHAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to postpartum depression

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 2507 to read as follows:

3 S 2507. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES FOR CARE. THE COMMISSION-
4 ER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE AND THE STATE BOARD
5 FOR NURSING, SHALL WORK WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND LICENSED HEALTH
6 CARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE STATE TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO
7 ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION
8 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

9 1. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFES-
10 SIONALS PROVIDING PRENATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL PROVIDE EDUCATION TO
11 WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES ABOUT POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION IN ORDER TO LOWER
12 THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NEW MOTHERS WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER FROM THIS
13 ILLNESS IN SILENCE;

14 2. ALL BIRTHING FACILITIES IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE DEPARTING NEW
15 MOTHERS AND FATHERS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH
16 COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION, INCLUDING ITS SYMP-
17 TOMS, METHODS OF COPING WITH THE ILLNESS AND TREATMENT RESOURCES;

18 3. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFES-
19 SIONALS PROVIDING POSTNATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL SCREEN NEW MOTHERS FOR
20 POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO DISCHARGE FROM THE BIRTHING
21 FACILITY AND AT THE FIRST FEW POSTNATAL CHECK-UP VISITS; AND

22 4. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFES-
23 SIONALS PROVIDING PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL INCLUDE
24 FATHERS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE, IN BOTH THE EDUCATION

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

1 AND TREATMENT PROCESSES TO HELP SUCH PERSONS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE
2 NATURE AND CAUSES OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION SO THAT THEY, TOO, CAN OVER-
3 COME THE SPILLOVER EFFECT OF THE ILLNESS AND IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO BE
4 SUPPORTIVE OF THE NEW MOTHER.

5 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
6 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-
7 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
8 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
9 authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such
10 effective date.