
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2246 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY KENNEY, KOTIK, WATSON, CRAHALLA, YOUNGBLOOD, MANN,
BROWNE, BUNT, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, FRANKEL, GEIST,
GOOD, GOODMAN, HARRIS, HERSHEY, HORSEY, KELLER, KIRKLAND,
LAUGHLIN, LEVDANSKY, O'NEILL, PISTELLA, PRESTON, REED,
ROEBUCK, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR,
J. TAYLOR, THOMAS AND WILT, DECEMBER 10, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, DECEMBER 10, 2003

AN ACT

1 Requiring information relating to parenting and prenatal and
2 postpartum depression, postpartum psychosis and other
3 emotional trauma counseling to be provided to a pregnant
4 woman; and providing for the powers and duties of the
5 Department of Health.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Parenting and prenatal and postpartum counseling
9 information.

10 (a) Duty to provide.--A hospital, birthing center,
11 physician, nurse-midwife or midwife who provides prenatal care
12 to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant
13 shall:

14 (1) Provide the woman with a fact sheet that includes
15 common symptoms of prenatal and postpartum depression,
16 postpartum psychosis and other emotional traumas associated
17 with pregnancy and parenting.

(2) Provide the woman with a resource list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of professional organizations that provide prenatal, postpartum counseling and assistance to parents.

(3) Document in the patient's record that the patient received the information described in paragraph (1).

(4) Retain the documentation for at least three years in the hospital's, birthing center's, physician's, nurse-midwife's or midwife's records.

(b) Resources to be included.--The information under subsection (a) shall include resources a pregnant woman may contact to receive counseling and assistance for prenatal depression, postpartum depression, postpartum psychosis and other emotional traumas associated with pregnancy and parenting.

(c) Presumption of compliance.--A hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse-midwife or midwife who provides prenatal care to a woman during gestation or at delivery is presumed to have complied with this section if the woman received prior prenatal care from another hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse-midwife or midwife in this Commonwealth during the same pregnancy.

Section 2. Powers and duties of the Department of Health.

The Department of Health shall:

(1) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this act.

(2) Enforce this act and the rules and regulations promulgated under this act.

(3) Make available on the department's World Wide Web site a printable list of professional organizations that provide prenatal depression, postpartum depression,

1 postpartum psychosis and other emotional traumas associated
2 with pregnancy counseling and assistance to parents, along
3 with a fact sheet as referenced in section 1(a)(1).

4 (4) Update the list required under paragraph (3) on a
5 monthly basis.

6 Section 3. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.