



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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To: Family Practitioners, Gynecologists, Health Insurance Carriers, Maternal Child Health Home Visitors, Mental Health Clinicians, Midwives, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Obstetricians, Pediatricians, Primary Care Providers, Social Workers, and other health care providers working with new parents in Massachusetts

From: Ron Benham, Director, MDPH Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition

Date: January 31, 2011

Re: *An Act Relative to Post Partum Depression (PPD)*: Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information on the *An Act Relative to Post Partum Depression (PPD)*: Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010 which was signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick on August 19, 2010. A copy of the legislation is attached as a PDF document. This legislation authorizes the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to develop a culture of awareness, de-stigmatization and screening for perinatal depression through several requirements including:

- Standards for measuring effective post partum depression screening;
- Recommendations for health insurance carriers and health care providers for data reporting specific to post partum depression screening; and
- Regulations that require providers and carriers to annually submit data on post partum depression screening.

In order to meet these legislative requirements in partnership with Massachusetts health care providers, the MDPH has convened a working group comprised of experts and stakeholders to advise the Department in the development of these standards, recommendations and regulations. As these regulations are developed and promulgated over the next several months, the MDPH will work to keep you informed through email updates and notice letters such as this one.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact Beth Buxton, LCSW by email at beth.buxton@state.ma.us or by phone at 617-624-5910. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.