

1 AN ACT concerning postpartum depression.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Act is amended
5 by adding Section 8.5 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2305/8.5 new)

7 Sec. 8.5. Postpartum depression. The Department, in
8 cooperation with the Department of Professional Regulation,
9 must work with licensed health care facilities and licensed
10 health care professionals to develop policies that meet all
11 of the following objectives that address the issue of
12 postpartum depression:

13 (1) For physicians and other licensed health care
14 professionals who provide prenatal care to women, to
15 provide education to women and their families about
16 postpartum depression in order to lower the likelihood
17 that new mothers will continue to suffer from the illness
18 in silence.

19 (2) For physicians and other health care personnel
20 who provide postnatal care to women, to screen new
21 mothers for postpartum depression symptoms prior to
22 discharge from hospital and at the first few postnatal
23 checkups.

24 (3) For physicians and other licensed health care
25 professionals who provide prenatal and postnatal care to
26 women, to include fathers and other family members, as
27 appropriate, in both the education and treatment
28 processes to help them better understand the nature and
29 causes of postpartum depression so that they can overcome
30 the spillover effects of the illness and improve their
31 ability to be supportive of the new mother.