



BRIAN MAIENSCHIEIN

ASSEMBLYMAN, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 845

Maternal Mental Health: Training

Background

1 in 5 women will be affected by a maternal mental health (MMH) disorder like postpartum depression making these disorders the most common complication of child birth. For women living in poverty the rate soars to 50%. To exacerbate the issue, women are rarely screened for such disorders, and of those screened fewer than 15% receive appropriate treatment. In 2018, AB 2193 was signed into law requiring obstetricians screen for these disorders.

The importance of screening and treatment has been recognized nationally. In 2015, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists publicly recommended that clinicians screen perinatal patients (pregnant women and those in the postpartum period) at least once for depression and anxiety symptoms. The American Medical Association followed suit in 2018, recommending doctors screen.

Though there is a recognition for the importance of screening, training for obstetricians, including prevalence, range of maternal mental health disorders and evidence-based treatment options, isn't yet available to physicians for continuing medical education requirements.

Current Law

Effective July 1, 2019, AB 2193 requires obstetric providers including Ob/Gyns, family practice providers and nurse practitioners to either screen for maternal mental health disorders at least once during the perinatal period or confirm screening has occurred

Effective January 1, 2020, AB 3032 requires hospitals to train their providers and disseminate information to perinatal patients about maternal mental health disorders and any local treatment options.

This Bill

Effective January 1, 2020, AB 845 requires the California Medical Board to make available continuing medical education training for obstetric providers including obstetricians, family practice providers and nurse practitioners. Training shall address the range of disorders including when a patient is at risk of harming herself or baby, evidence-based screening tools and treatment options, resources for safe prescribing, and skills for building trust with patients.

AB 845 will build upon recent legislation to ensure that California's screening providers have access to training that will prepare them to screen and treat for these disorders.

Sponsor



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2020 Mom
Maternal Mental Health NOW

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