

SENATE, No. 3406

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Rice

SYNOPSIS

Codifies current requirements regarding completion of Perinatal Risk Assessment form by certain Medicaid health care providers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the Perinatal Risk Assessment form and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. An obstetrical provider, nurse midwife, or other licensed
8 health care professional, approved as a provider under the Medicaid
9 program established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et
10 seq.), shall complete the Perinatal Risk Assessment form, as used
11 by the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the
12 Department of Human Services, for each pregnant Medicaid
13 recipient who receives prenatal care from the provider. The form
14 shall be completed by the provider during the recipient's first
15 prenatal visit.

16
17 2. The division shall require providers to submit each Perinatal
18 Risk Assessment form completed pursuant to section 1 of this act to
19 the division, or to a nonprofit entity contracted by the division to
20 process and maintain the Perinatal Risk Assessment data. A
21 provider shall not receive authorization for reimbursement for
22 prenatal services provided to a pregnant Medicaid recipient until a
23 Perinatal Risk Assessment form is submitted for that recipient.

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25 3. The division, in collaboration with the Department of
26 Health, Medicaid managed care organizations, and any nonprofit
27 entity contracted by the division to process and maintain the
28 Perinatal Risk Assessment data, shall analyze the Perinatal Risk
29 Assessment data in order to identify trends in the risk factors
30 associated with Medicaid recipients during pregnancy. The division
31 shall submit a written report 18 months following the enactment of
32 this act, and annually thereafter, to the Governor, and to the
33 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
34 providing a summary of their findings, and any proposals for
35 legislative action needed to improve the maternal outcomes of
36 Medicaid recipients.

37
38 4. The Commissioners of Health and Human Services, pursuant
39 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
40 1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement
41 the provisions of this act.

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43 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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45 **STATEMENT**

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47 This bill codifies current requirements regarding the completion
48 of the Perinatal Risk Assessment form by certain Medicaid health

1 care providers. Specifically, under the bill, an obstetrical provider,
2 nurse midwife, or other licensed health care professional, approved
3 as a provider under the Medicaid program, is required to complete
4 the Perinatal Risk Assessment form, as used by the Division of
5 Medical Assistance and Health Services in the Department of
6 Human Services, for each pregnant Medicaid recipient who receives
7 prenatal care from the provider. The provider is required to
8 complete the form during the recipient's first prenatal visit.

9 Furthermore, the bill directs the division to require providers to
10 submit each completed Perinatal Risk Assessment form to the
11 division, or to a nonprofit entity contracted by the division to
12 process and maintain the Perinatal Risk Assessment data. The bill
13 stipulates that a provider will not receive authorization for
14 reimbursement for prenatal services provided to a pregnant
15 Medicaid recipient until a Perinatal Risk Assessment form is
16 submitted for that recipient. Currently, the Perinatal Risk
17 Assessment form serves as an authorization for payment to
18 providers from Medicaid managed care organizations.

19 The bill also requires the division, in collaboration with the
20 Department of Health, Medicaid managed care organizations, and
21 any nonprofit entity contracted by the division to process and
22 maintain the Perinatal Risk Assessment data, to analyze the
23 Perinatal Risk Assessment data in order to identify trends in the risk
24 factors associated with Medicaid recipients during pregnancy. The
25 bill directs the division to submit a written report 18 months
26 following the enactment of this bill, and annually thereafter, to the
27 Governor and to the Legislature, providing a summary of their
28 findings and any proposals for legislative action needed to improve
29 the maternal outcomes of Medicaid recipients.

30 The Perinatal Risk Assessment form allows the division to gather
31 information about Medicaid-eligible pregnant women in New Jersey
32 via a common risk assessment tool. To achieve this goal, the form
33 content includes all of the demographic, medical, and psychosocial
34 factors considered in the risk management of pregnant women. As
35 used currently, and unchanged by this bill, the Perinatal Risk
36 Assessment form is intended to promote early and accurate
37 identification of prenatal risk factors, and to reduce administrative
38 burden on obstetric practices. In addition, the form is also used as a
39 mechanism to refer eligible families to evidence-based home
40 visiting programs, as well as access to prenatal care initiative
41 projects focused on improving access to prenatal care and other
42 related services.

43 It is the sponsor's belief that codifying current requirements
44 regarding the completion of the Perinatal Risk Assessment form by
45 Medicaid providers who deliver prenatal services will strengthen
46 the division's ability to use this tool to gather the essential
47 information needed to improve prenatal services provided to
48 Medicaid beneficiaries.