



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Maryland Hospitals Providing Obstetric Services

FROM: Oksana Likhova
Deputy Director of Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Oksana Likhova

DATE: December 29, 2025

RE: Notice of Policy Submission *HB1251 - Doula and Birth Policy Transparency Act*

The purpose of this memo is to inform all Maryland hospitals that provide obstetric services, on how to submit their policies on doulas, informed consent, and transfer acceptance from midwives to the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). This policy submission is required by [*HB1251 - Hospitals and Medical Professional Liability Insurers – Obstetric Services Policies \(Doula and Birth Policy Transparency Act\)*](#), which passed during the 2025 legislative session and has an effective date of January 1, 2026.

The requirements were published as [proposed regulations in the Maryland Register](#) on October 31, 2025, which state:

.38 Policies for Hospitals Providing Obstetric Care.

A. Pursuant to the requirements in Health-General Article, §§19-2601 and 19-2602, Annotated Code of Maryland, a hospital that provides obstetrical services shall adopt policies on: (1) Doulas, which at a minimum, allows every birthing parent to have at least one doula present during birth in addition to authorized guests; (2) Informed consent for significant medical interventions, including but not limited to, cesarean section, induction of labor, augmentation of labor, operative vaginal delivery, or episiotomy, for the birthing parent; and (3) Transfer acceptance, that includes at a minimum, the hospital's process for receiving: (a) A patient from a health care practitioner regulated under Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Annotated Code of Maryland who had provided services to a birthing parent in a home birth setting; (b) A birthing parent's or newborn's medical information from the home birth provider; and (c) A transfer from a licensed direct-entry midwife that is consistent with the requirements of Health Occupations Article, §8–6C–08, Annotated Code of Maryland.

B. Hospitals that provide obstetrical services shall provide evidence of the policies required in §A of this regulation, to the Department in an electronic format and in the manner specified by the Office of Health Care Quality: (1) By January 1, 2026; and (2) Upon any updates to a policy required by §A of this regulation.

Please use this link to submit your policies:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019b6b64a71378ff9811ef910be87acf>

As OHCQ moves to Notice of Final Action on the regulations, please know that the due date for hospitals to submit their policies has been extended to February 2, 2026.

Please contact oksana.likhova@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

(CC):

American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM)

Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (AIMM)

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG)

Maryland Families for Safe Birth

The Maryland Hospital Association

American Academy of Pediatrics

MDH - Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON)

MDH - Maternal Child Health Bureau