



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Dear Colleague:

As you know, perinatal depression is a significant problem facing childbearing age women. Depression continues to be under-recognized and under-treated. The Illinois Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) are working with the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Illinois Department of Human Services to assist physicians in the identification and management of this important health problem. The following materials are enclosed with this letter:

- A Provider Notice from the Illinois Department of Public Aid regarding screening for perinatal depression. The Medicaid program is initiating coverage for screening with the Edinburgh Postpartum Depression scale. The reimbursement rate is \$14.60. Physicians providing care to either the mother or child may bill. The Provider Notice also includes:
 - A copy of the Edinburgh Postpartum Depression scale and scoring guide.
 - An announcement regarding a new consultation service for primary care physicians. Under this new service, you may consult with a psychiatrist from the Women's Clinic at the UIC Department of Psychiatry regarding the management of patients with perinatal depression by calling a toll-free telephone number, **1-800-573-6121**.
 - Directions for calling the Illinois Department of Human Services Customer Care Line (**1-800-843-6154**). You may call this number to find a mental health professional in your area to whom you may refer women suffering from perinatal depression.
- A copy of the Illinois Department of Human Services medication guide for the pharmacotherapy of perinatal depression, developed in conjunction with the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine.

We encourage you to routinely screen women in your practice who are pregnant or who have a newborn infant to identify perinatal depression and take appropriate action to treat this prevalent but treatable illness.

Sincerely,

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