

Screening Bill of Rights



Mental Health Screening Bill of Rights for Pregnant and Postpartum Birthing People

Preamble: Recognizing the importance of mental health during pregnancy and the postpartum period, this Bill of Rights aims to safeguard the rights and well-being of pregnant and postpartum birthing people in the context of mental health screening.

Informed Consent

- Every pregnant and postpartum birthing person has the right to be fully informed about the purpose, nature, and potential implications of mental health screening.
- Informed consent must be obtained before conducting any mental health screening, ensuring that individuals understand the process and have the right to refuse or ask questions.

Access to Resources

Pregnant and postpartum birthing people who undergo mental health screening have the right to receive information about available mental health resources, support services, and treatment options.

Cultural Sensitivity

Mental health screening tools and processes should be culturally sensitive and consider the diverse backgrounds and experiences of pregnant and postpartum birthing people.

Privacy & Confidentiality

- Mental health screening should be conducted in a private and confidential manner, respecting the individual's privacy rights.
- Results of mental health screening should be shared only with the individual, and disclosure to others should occur only with explicit consent or when required by law.

Non-Discrimination

Mental health screening should be administered without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

Right to Decline & Alternative Options

- Individuals have the right to decline mental health screening without facing any negative consequences in their healthcare.
- Alternative methods for assessing mental health, when available and appropriate, should be offered.

Education & Awareness

Pregnant and postpartum birthing people have the right to receive education about mental health, reducing stigma, and promoting overall well-being during and after pregnancy.

Periodic Review

Periodic review and assessment of mental health screening practices should be conducted to ensure alignment with evolving standards of care and respect for individual rights.

Grievance Procedure

Establish a clear grievance procedure for individuals who feel their rights related to mental health screening have been violated.

Collaboration With Mental Health Professionals

Healthcare providers should collaborate with mental health professionals to ensure accurate interpretation of screening results and appropriate follow-up care.

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