



PROVIDER *bulletin*

January 9, 2020

Kern Health Systems strives to provide periodic updates to our contracted network regarding benefit and coverage changes for Kern Family Health Care members as directed by our regulatory body, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Beginning July 1, 2019, KHS is required to develop a maternal mental health program designed to promote quality and cost-effective outcomes consistent with sound clinical principles and processes.

Primary Care and Obstetric providers, including nurse midwives, will be required to conduct mental health screenings to identify early signs of depression during pregnancy and Postpartum to facilitate timely treatment interventions.

KHS recommends the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) and the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) for conducting Maternal Mental Health screenings. When a member screens positive, KHS providers are encouraged to submit a request for Case Management for Maternal Mental Health to the Health Education department via the Provider Portal. Below is a link to the screening tools.

[Maternal Mental Health Forms](#)

If you have questions, please contact the KHS Health Services Department at (661) 664-5083.

Thank you,

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