

HOUSE BILL 477

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP A UNIVERSAL PRENATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE SCREENING TOOL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Health Act is enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ PRENATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE SCREENING.--

A. The department shall promulgate rules to develop a universal prenatal substance exposure screening tool. The screening tool shall:

(1) be a survey performed by a health care provider during every prenatal checkup; and

(2) include questions that investigate whether a pregnant patient has consumed any drugs or alcohol during the

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1 patient's pregnancy.

2 B. All answers provided by pregnant patients in  
3 response to the universal prenatal substance exposure screening  
4 tool shall be confidential. Evidence of prenatal substance  
5 exposure that results from the screening tool shall not subject  
6 a pregnant patient to the requirements of the Family Services  
7 Act.

8 C. If a pregnant patient's answers to the universal  
9 prenatal substance exposure screening tool indicate risk of  
10 prenatal substance exposure, the health care provider  
11 administering the screening tool shall refer the patient to a  
12 provider that offers prenatal substance use treatment."