

PERINATAL RISK ASSESSMENT PLUS (PRA PLUS) NEW JERSEY LAW FACT SHEET

What is Perinatal Risk Assessment Plus (PRA Plus)?

PRA Plus is a set of forms designed to provide a uniform tool that includes all clinical and psychosocial risk factors that impact pregnant women. The First Visit form is completed upon entry into prenatal care and is updated in the third trimester. Benefits of the form set include clinically validated substance use screening, optional automatic patient referral to community based services, optional automatic patient referral to tobacco cessation programs, and 17P therapy (preterm delivery prevention) eligibility tracker. Forms are entered on the PRA|SPECT web portal www.praspect.org.

For assistance, contact Family Health Initiatives at 856-665-6000 or PRA@fhiworks.org

What is Senate Bill 3406?

[Senate Bill 3406](#) mandates the completion of the PRA Plus form set (First Visit form and third trimester update) for pregnant women that are uninsured or receiving any type of government-sponsored health coverage (Charity Care, Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care, NJ FamilyCare, etc.). Governor Phil Murphy passed Senate Bill 3406 on May 8, 2019. It takes full effect on May 8, 2020.

Why was Senate Bill 3406 created?

In response to increasing rates of maternal and infant mortality, the passage of Senate Bill 3406 was part of a package of bills designed to improve the health of expectant mothers and newborns.

How does the bill affect obstetrical providers, nurse midwives, and other licensed healthcare professionals?

The bill recognizes the importance of the efforts of obstetrical providers, nurse midwives, and other licensed healthcare professionals. Although the law only requires form submission for uninsured and government-sponsored health coverage, PRA Plus should be completed for all (including nongovernment-sponsored insurance) pregnant patients. Providers should submit the PRA Plus generated birth worksheet with the prenatal packet for the birth hospital. PRA Plus includes all of the required prenatal information for birth hospitals to fill in the state required dataset on the Vital Information Platform (VIP) www.vip.nj.gov.

How does the bill affect Medicaid organizations?

[Medicaid Managed Care Organization](#) is required to receive the PRA Plus First Visit form prior to issuing global authorization for pregnant members.

How does the bill affect state agencies?

The [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) is required to use PRA data analysis to reduce barriers to prenatal care, and to advance NJ health care practices.

