



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 358
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JEFFREY A. BROWN
Acting Commissioner

To: Acute Care Hospitals Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43G

From: Michael J. Kennedy, J.D. *MSL*
Executive Director, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

Date: May 20, 2025

Re: One Support Person in Labor and Delivery Settings

On May 15, 2020, P.L. 2020, c. 32 was signed into law by Governor Philip D. Murphy, and is codified at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.6h, ("Act"). The Act requires an acute care general hospital licensed pursuant to P.L. 1971, c. 136 (C. 26:2H-1 et seq.) to permit a pregnant woman to have at least one individual accompany her during the period of labor and delivery in the hospital room where she gives birth to her child(ren). This support person may be the patient's spouse, partner, sibling, or another person of patient's choice. Hospital staff are required to note this designation, at a minimum, in the patient's chart.

On January 16, 2024, P.L. 2023, c. 286 was signed into law by Governor Philip D. Murphy. This statute, which is codified at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.6i, requires every hospital and birthing center to adopt and maintain written policies and procedures authorizing a patient to select a doula of the patient's choice to accompany the patient for the purpose of providing support before, during, and after labor and childbirth. A patient's right to have a doula throughout the labor and post-partum period is *in addition* to the support person authorized under P.L. 2020, c. 32.

The Department of Health intends to amend N.J.A.C. 8:43G through the administrative rulemaking process to incorporate the provisions of this Act.

Questions regarding this memo may be directed to Michael J. Kennedy, Executive Director, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing at Michael.Kennedy@doh.nj.gov.