

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

October 15, 2024

Dear Valued Partners:

The Florida Department of Health (Department) would like to thank you for your commitment to your patients' health and wellness. The collaboration with our providers and community partners across the state plays a vital role in improving the health of our communities.

To identify women at risk of poor pregnancy and birth outcomes, section 383.14, Florida Statutes, requires Florida health care providers to administer prenatal screens to pregnant women at their first prenatal visit. During this visit, providers are expected to review the screen with the patient to ensure completeness and accuracy of information. Providers are also tasked with educating patients on the prenatal screen to ensure patient understanding and informed consent. Although patients may decline the screen, it is required that providers offer and discuss the purpose and benefits of the prenatal screen with their patients.

On July 1, 2024, Florida launched the electronic prenatal screen, modernizing the previous paper-based version. The electronic screen allows a provider to send a hyperlink to a pregnant woman prior to her initial prenatal visit. Then the expecting mother can complete the screen at her leisure before her visit. Preliminary data indicates that the electronic prenatal screen reduces the average time between screen completion and initiation of home visiting services by 28 days. Additionally, the electronic prenatal screen eliminates the manual data entry process which improves overall data quality and reporting.

The Department has asked our community partners to distribute outreach materials to spread the message and ease the transition. These materials include brochures, flyers, and an infographic. To access outreach materials and stay informed of future announcements, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov/PrenatalScreen.

Your support of the new electronic Florida Prenatal Screen is vital to promoting positive pregnancy and birth outcomes. To get started, please register your licensed facility today at www.FloridaHealth.gov/PrenatalScreenApp/Register.

For questions regarding this transition please contact the Department's prenatal screen team via email at PrenatalScreen@flhealth.gov.

Sincerely,

Shay Holloway, BSN, MBA
Director

Division of Community Health Promotion

