

Summary of Public Comments and Department's Response

Maine Birth Defects Program Rule 10-144 C.M.R, Ch. 280

The Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided public notice on June 28, 2017 regarding proposed rule changes to the Maine Birth Defects Program Rule. Notice of Rulemaking was published in five major newspapers and posted on the Secretary of State's website and Maine CDC's rules webpage, mainepublichealth.gov/rules. No public hearing was held. Public comments were accepted through August 5, 2017. This document summarizes the comments received during the public comment period and provides the Department's responses.

Date Received	Commenter Number	Commenter Name	Affiliation	Format
6/29/2017	1	Kelley Bowden	Maine Medical Center	Written

- 1. Commenter 1** asked whether the rule also applies to home birth midwives or Certified Professional Midwives (CPM). Commenter 1 submitted that, as of January 1, 2020, these professionals must be licensed providers in Maine.

Response: Beginning January 1, 2020, a person practicing midwifery must be licensed in accordance with 32 M.R.S. § 12531. This rule requires licensed hospital administrators and licensed health professionals who provide care to woman during pregnancy, and to infants and newborns for the first year of life, to comply with reporting requirements. The Department amended the final rule in response to this comment by adding language in Section 3 to clarify that an individual who is licensed to practice midwifery, including a Certified Professional Midwife and regardless of whether the midwife is engaged with a birthing center, is subject to reporting requirements.