

Respect in Maternal Care

About this resource: The following definition of respect and actions that promote respect were developed by the participants of the Doula Coordination Community of Practice, which was facilitated by the Louisiana Public Health Institute from October 2022 – August 2023.

Definition

Respect for patients, doulas, and medical staff is the concept that all people acknowledge the collective goal of a good and healthy birth. Showing respect for all individuals is recognizing all roles of the care team, accommodating patient choices, communicating, and acting professionally. This concept applies throughout prenatal, labor & delivery, and postnatal care.

Actions That Promote Respect

- Process/system to let healthcare staff know doula will be present
- Include doulas in huddles
- Providing hospital credentials to doulas
- Clarity on each person's role
- Hospital champions of doula care
- Integrate doulas into hospital processes
 - Trainings
 - Decision-making