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May 25, 2018

Dear Out of Hospital Births Workgroup member,

Thank you for your participation on the 2016-2017 Out of Hospital Births Workgroup (OOHBW) and for the recommendations that were presented to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) last summer. As you know, the OHA has undergone substantial leadership changes since that time. I am writing to update you on our work to address the recommendations.

Beginning this summer, OHA will implement the third workgroup recommendation, "Prior Authorization (PA) Process Review." Specifically, OHA will convene a small workgroup to review and make suggestions for improvement of OHA's PA process for out-of-hospital births, with the goal of optimizing safety while improving PA process efficiency. Members of last year's workgroup who are out-of-hospital birth providers will be invited to participate. These meetings will be public and materials will be posted online. We will share the site information with you once available.

I will also be engaging an internal OHA team to review the remaining recommendations and determine what additional steps can be pursued to ensure maternal and infant health as well as to provide women with choices in prenatal care and birthing options. We are committed to communicating with you and other interested stakeholders about those next steps.

Finally, I want you to know that OHA will be looking at new evidence that has been published related to out-of-hospital births since the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) created its Coverage Guidance in 2015. I have asked the HERC to develop a scoping statement on this topic and perform a scan of the recent literature to determine if sufficient evidence exists to update their Coverage Guidance. They will undertake this review as early as August 2018 and information/materials will be provided [here](#) once their process begins.

We are committed to evaluating these aspects of the Oregon Health Plan out-of-hospital births benefit transparently and thoughtfully. Please stay tuned for more updates and feel free to contact us at [OOHB.Workgroup@state.or.us](mailto:OOHB.Workgroup@state.or.us).

Sincerely,

Dana Hargunani MD MPH  
Chief Medical Officer