



*Representing the advocacy interests  
of hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley*

# SUPPORT

## MEMORANDUM

June 7, 2018

TO: Members, Long Island Delegation of the New York State Legislature  
Members, Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Legislature

FROM: Kevin W. Dahill, President and CEO

RE: S.8774-A (Hannon) — Advanced to Third Reading  
A.9950-A (Gottfried) — Referred to Rules

S.8774-A/A.9950-A would amend Public Health Law by authorizing hospitals to establish standing orders for the routine care of healthy newborns. Standing orders are predetermined sets of clinical protocols that can be initiated based on standard patient criteria (i.e. birth). Physicians can use standing orders to expedite patient care and for the effective management of common patient care processes by the registered nurse. **The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State strongly supports this bill.**

Currently, in New York State, an attending practitioner must order routine tests and procedures for healthy newborns before the team can proceed with standard care. This process can often lead to delays in care and unnecessary disruptions. Authorizing registered nurses to initiate routine, evidence-based clinical protocols and state-mandated treatments in accordance with a hospital's established standing order policy would increase efficiencies and improve post-natal care.

Standard clinical protocols for newborns are already well-defined by national associations, the New York State Newborn Screening Program and state regulations. All of the recommended tests and procedures that would be included in a hospital's standing orders (antibiotic eye prophylaxis, administration of vitamin K, and HIV and metabolic disorder testing) are within the registered nurse's scope of practice. If nurses are given the freedom to administer these tests and treatments as part of the routine post-delivery process, they will be able to limit the number of times they have to take the newborn from its mother and disrupt bonding time.

The precedent for using standing orders to streamline patient care has already been set in New York State. Public Health Law currently authorizes nurses to perform certain tests and treatments under hospital standing order policies, including immunizations and HIV tests without a physician's direct orders.

This bill also takes steps to ensure the safety and appropriate use of policies related to standing orders for healthy newborns by requiring each hospital to identify the circumstances in which the order will and will not be implemented, and by ensuring that all orders comply with an RN's scope of practice and all applicable regulations.

**For the reasons cited above, the Suburban Hospital Alliance urges your support for S.8774-A/A.9950-A.**