
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREMATURE INFANT HEALTH CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§321-_____ Educational information about premature
5 infants' risks and healthcare needs. (a) Not later than July
6 1, 2011, the department of health shall prepare written
7 educational information about newborn infants who are born
8 premature at less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age, which
9 shall include:

10 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
11 premature;

12 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as
13 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care
14 services available to premature infants through the
15 medicaid program and other public or private health
16 programs;

17 (3) Vaccines and other preventive measures to protect
18 premature infants from infectious diseases; and



1 (4) The emotional and financial burdens and other
2 challenges experienced by a premature infant's family,
3 and information about community resources available to
4 support family members.

5 (b) The publications shall be written in language
6 appropriate for a wide socioeconomic range of parents of
7 premature infants and shall be updated every two years. In
8 preparing the information, the department of health may consult
9 with community organizations that focus on premature infants or
10 pediatric healthcare.

11 (c) The department of health shall distribute these
12 publications to medical organizations including any health care
13 facility or health care provider that provides medical care to
14 newborns, children's health care providers, maternal health care
15 providers, and community health centers. The department of
16 health shall encourage each organization to distribute the
17 publications to the parents or guardians of a premature infant.

18 (d) For purposes of this section:

19 "Health care facility" includes any program, institution,
20 place, building, or agency, or portion thereof, private or
21 public, other than federal facilities or services, whether
22 organized for profit or not, used, operated, or designed to



1 provide medical diagnosis, treatment, nursing, rehabilitative,
2 or preventive care to any person or persons. The terms include
3 health care facilities and health care services commonly
4 referred to as hospitals, outpatient clinics, organized
5 ambulatory health care facilities, emergency care facilities and
6 centers, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations,
7 and others providing similarly organized services regardless of
8 nomenclature.

9 "Health care providers" means health care facilities,
10 physicians licensed under chapter 453, and nurses licensed under
11 chapter 457.

12 §321- Patient Discharge Information. (a) Any
13 hospital that provides medical care for newborns shall provide
14 the parents of the newborn with written educational material
15 containing information about newborn infants who are born
16 premature at less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age. The
17 written information shall at a minimum include:

- 18 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
19 premature;
20 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as
21 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care
22 services available to premature infants through the



1 medicaid program and other public or private health
2 programs;

3 (3) Infectious disease awareness and methods to prevent or
4 minimize infections common to premature infants; and

5 (4) Community resources to assist parents and family
6 members with the care and support of premature
7 infants.

8 (b) The materials shall be:

9 (1) Updated at least every two years;

10 (2) Written in clear language to educate a wide
11 socioeconomic range of parents of premature infants;
12 and

13 (3) Approved by the department of health.

14 (c) For the purpose of this section:

15 "Hospital" includes:

16 (1) An institution with an organized medical staff,
17 regulated under section 321-11(10), that admits
18 patients for inpatient care, diagnosis, observation,
19 and treatment; and

20 (2) A health facility under chapter 323F.



1 "Medical care" means every type of care, treatment,
2 surgery, hospitalization, attendance, service, and supplies as
3 the nature of the injury or condition requires.

4 "Parent" includes a biological mother or father, foster
5 mother or foster father, adoptive mother or adoptive father, and
6 stepmother or stepfather."

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health, in consultation
8 with statewide organizations focused on premature infant health
9 care, shall:

- 10 (1) Develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and follow-
11 up care procedures for premature infants born earlier
12 than thirty-seven weeks gestational age to ensure
13 standardized and coordinated processes are followed as
14 premature infants leave the hospital from either a well
15 baby nursery, step-down or transitional nursery, or
16 neonatal intensive care unit, and transition to follow-up
17 care by a health care provider in the community;
- 18 (2) Request hospitals serving infants eligible for medical
19 assistance and child health assistance to report to the
20 department of health the causes and incidence of all
21 rehospitalizations of infants born premature at less than



1 thirty-seven weeks gestational age within their first six
2 months of life; and

3 (3) Use guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
4 Services' Neonatal Outcomes Improvement Project to
5 implement programs to improve newborn outcomes, reduce
6 newborn health costs, and establish ongoing quality
7 improvement for newborns.

8 (b) The department of health shall submit a report to the
9 legislature not less than twenty days prior to the convening of the
10 2011 regular session that shall include:

11 (1) The plan developed by the department to improve care
12 for premature infants;

13 (2) Data regarding the incidence and cause of
14 rehospitalization in the first six months of life for
15 infants born premature at earlier than thirty-seven weeks
16 gestational age;

17 (3) Recommendations for improving the care of premature
18 infants; and

19 (4) Any proposed legislation to implement the
20 recommendations.

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

22 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Premature Infants; Hospital Discharge and Follow-up Procedure

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and follow-up care procedures for premature infants born earlier than 37 weeks gestational age to ensure standardized and coordinated processes are followed as premature infants leave the hospital.

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