
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 infants'
5 risks and healthcare needs. (a) Not later than January 1,
6 2012, the department of health shall prepare written educational
7 information about newborn infants who are born premature at less
8 than thirty-seven weeks' gestational age, which shall include:

- 9 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
10 premature;
11 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as
12 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care
13 services available to premature infants through the
14 medicaid program and other public or private health
15 programs;
16 (3) Vaccines and other preventive measures to protect
17 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 multiple diverse
6 languages appropriate for parents of premature infants and shall
7 be updated every three years. In preparing the information, the
8 department of health may consult with community organizations
9 that focus on premature infants or pediatric healthcare.

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

17 (d) For purposes of this section:

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



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

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

11 §321- Patient discharge information. (a) Any hospital
12 that provides medical care for newborns shall provide the
13 parents of the newborn with written educational material
14 containing information about newborn infants who are born
15 premature at less than thirty-seven weeks' gestational age. The
16 written information shall at a minimum include:

- 17 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
18 premature;
19 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as
20 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care
21 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 three years;
- 10 (2) Written clearly in multiple, diverse languages to
11 educate parents of premature infants; and
- 12 (3) Approved by the department of health.
- 13 (c) For the purpose of this section:
- 14 "Hospital" includes:
- 15 (1) An institution with an organized medical staff,
16 regulated under section 321-11(10), that admits
17 patients for inpatient care, diagnosis, observation,
18 and treatment; and
- 19 (2) A health facility under chapter 323F.
- 20 "Medical care" means every type of care; treatment,
21 surgery, hospitalization, attendance, service, and supplies as
22 the nature of the injury or condition requires.



1 "Parent" includes a biological mother or father, foster
2 mother or foster father, adoptive mother or adoptive father, and
3 stepmother or stepfather."

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health, in consultation
5 with statewide organizations focused on premature infant health
6 care, shall:

- 7 (1) Develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and follow-
8 up care procedures for premature infants born earlier
9 than thirty-seven weeks' gestational age to ensure
10 standardized and coordinated processes are followed as
11 premature infants leave the hospital from either a well
12 baby nursery, step-down or transitional nursery, or
13 neonatal intensive care unit, and transition to follow-up
14 care by a health care provider in the community;
- 15 (2) Request hospitals serving infants eligible for medical
16 assistance and child health assistance to report to the
17 department of health the causes and incidence of all
18 rehospitalizations of infants born premature at less than
19 thirty-seven weeks' gestational age within their first
20 six months of life; and
- 21 (3) Use guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
22 Services' Neonatal Outcomes Improvement Project to
23 implement programs to improve newborn outcomes, reduce



1 newborn health costs, and establish ongoing quality
2 improvement for newborns.

3 (b) The department of health shall submit a report to the
4 legislature not less than twenty days prior to the convening of the
5 2011 regular session that shall include:

- 6 (1) The plan developed by the department to improve care
7 for premature infants;
- 8 (2) Data regarding the incidence and cause of
9 rehospitalization in the first six months of life for
10 infants born premature at earlier than thirty-seven
11 weeks' gestational age;
- 12 (3) Recommendations for improving the care of premature
13 infants; and
- 14 (4) Any proposed legislation to implement the
15 recommendations.

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



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. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB2081 HD1)

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