
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 July 1, 2011,
6 the department of health shall prepare written educational
7 information about newborn infants who are born prematurely at
8 less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age, which shall
9 include:

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



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

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

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

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

20 (d) For purposes of this section:

21 "Health care facility" includes any program, institution,
22 place, building, or agency, or portion thereof, private or

1 public, other than federal facilities or services, whether
2 organized for profit or not, used, operated, or designed to
3 provide medical diagnosis, treatment, nursing, rehabilitative,
4 or preventive care to any person or persons. The term includes
5 health care facilities and health care services commonly
6 referred to as hospitals, outpatient clinics, organized
7 ambulatory health care facilities, emergency care facilities and
8 centers, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations,
9 and others providing similarly organized services regardless of
10 nomenclature.

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

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

20 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
21 prematurely;



1 (2) The proper care of premature infants, as well as
2 developmental screenings, monitoring, and health care
3 services available to premature infants through the
4 medicaid program and other public or private health
5 programs;

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

8 (4) Community resources to assist parents and family
9 members with the care and support of premature
10 infants.

11 (b) The materials shall be:

12 (1) Updated at least every two years;

13 (2) Written in clear language to educate a wide
14 socioeconomic range of parents of premature infants;
15 and

16 (3) Approved by the department of health.

17 (c) For the purpose of this section:

18 "Hospital" includes:

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



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

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

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

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

11 (1) Develop a plan to improve hospital discharge and
12 follow-up care procedures for premature infants born
13 earlier than thirty-seven weeks gestational age to
14 ensure standardized and coordinated processes are
15 followed as premature infants leave the hospital from
16 either a well baby nursery, step-down or transitional
17 nursery, or neonatal intensive care unit, and
18 transition to follow-up care by a health care provider
19 in the community;

20 (2) Request hospitals serving infants eligible for medical
21 assistance and child health assistance to report to
22 the department of health the causes and incidence of



1 all rehospitalizations of infants born prematurely at
2 less than thirty-seven weeks gestational age within
3 their first six months of life; and

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

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

- 13 (1) The plan developed by the department to improve care
14 for premature infants;
- 15 (2) Data regarding the incidence and cause of
16 rehospitalization in the first six months of life for
17 infants born prematurely at earlier than thirty-seven
18 weeks gestational age;
- 19 (3) Recommendations for improving the care of premature
20 infants; and
- 21 (4) Any proposed legislation to implement the
22 recommendations.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated from Hawaii tobacco
2 settlement special fund moneys appropriated to the department of
3 health for the healthy Hawaii initiative program pursuant to
4 sections 328L-2(b)(2) and 328L-4(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
5 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary
6 for fiscal year 2010-2011 for developing and disseminating
7 written information about newborn infants who are born
8 prematurely as required by this Act and to develop a plan to
9 improve hospital discharge and follow-up care procedures for
10 infants born prematurely.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 health for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
15 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

16



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; appropriates funds from healthy Hawaii initiative funds for this purpose. (SD1)

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