



**NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' ACT
DISCLOSURE – LENGTH OF STAY**

To: Employees Who Are Eligible to Participate in the Group Health Plan

Re: Plans with Hospital Inpatient Benefits

Under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996, group health plans with hospital inpatient benefits generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, this federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable).

Plans also may not require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan for the hospital stay of the mother or newborn child for the first 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or for the first 96 hours following a cesarean section.