

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

Federal law (Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996) prohibits the plan from limiting a mother's or newborn's lengths of hospital stay to less than 48 hours for a normal delivery or 96 hours for a Cesarean delivery. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the attending provider, after consultation with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours for normal delivery or 96 hours for Cesarean delivery. In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours). For additional information as provided by the Department of Labor, go to [Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act Fact Sheet](#)