

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University

Office of Human Resources

Mailing Address: Office of Human Resources, Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL 35762

Phone: 256.372.5835

Fax: 256.372.5881

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996

The Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996 and its regulations provide that health plans and health insurance issuers may not restrict a mother's or newborn's benefits for a hospital length of stay that is connected with childbirth to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, the attending provider (who may be a physician or nurse midwife) may decide, after consulting with the mother, to discharge the mother and newborn child earlier. Plans and issuers may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).