S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 13, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, MILLMAN, MAISEL, BENEDETTO, CAHILL, JAFFEE, COOK, MENG, COLTON, GIBSON, CASTRO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BOYLAND, CRESPO, HEASTIE, JACOBS, LUPARDO, MARKEY, MAYERSOHN, McENENY, PHEFFER, REILLY, ROBINSON, TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to patient discharge information concerning certain premature newborn infants

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2803-t to read as follows:

S 2803-T. PATIENT DISCHARGE INFORMATION. 1. ANY HOSPITAL THAT PROVIDES BIRTHING SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN, EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS, PROPER CARE AND SUPPORT ASSOCIATED WITH NEWBORN INFANTS WHO ARE BORN PREMATURE AT LESS THAN THIRTY-SEVEN WEEKS GESTATIONAL AGE. THE WRITTEN INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE UNIQUE HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING INFANTS BORN PREMATURE, SUCH AS: INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS; NUTRITIONAL CHALLENGES; INFECTION; CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE (BRONCHOPULMONARY DYSPLASIA); VISION AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT; BREATHING PROBLEMS; FEEDING; MAINTAINING BODY TEMPERATURE; JAUNDICE; HYPERACTIVITY; INFANT MORTALITY AND LONG-TERM COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH FINE MOTOR SKILLS, READING, WRITING, MATHEMATICS AND SPEAKING;

(B) THE PROPER CARE NEEDS OF PREMATURE INFANTS, DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS AND MONITORING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PREMATURE INFANTS;

(C) INFECTIOUS DISEASE AWARENESS AND METHODS TO PREVENT OR MINIMIZE INFECTIONS COMMON TO PREMATURE INFANTS; AND

(D) COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO ASSIST PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WITH THE CARE AND SUPPORT OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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2. SUCH MATERIALS SHALL BE WRITTEN IN CLEAR LANGUAGE TO EDUCATE PARENTS OF PREMATURE INFANTS ACROSS A VARIETY OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUSES AND SHALL BE UPDATED AT LEAST EVERY TWO YEARS.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.