

CHAPTER 503

(House Bill 888)

AN ACT concerning

Mothers' and Infants' Health Security Act

FOR the purpose of requiring, ~~with certain exceptions,~~ nonprofit health service plans, hospital or major medical insurance policies, and group or blanket health insurance policies to encourage and assist certain persons to select and contact a primary care provider for an expected newborn prior to the delivery date; requiring certain persons to provide certain insured persons with certain information on postpartum home visits; ~~requiring certain persons to require certain insured persons to select and contact a primary care provider for the newborn prior to discharge of the newborn from the hospital;~~ specifying that the criteria and standards used by private review agents or health maintenance organizations in performing utilization review of certain services ~~to~~ be in accordance with certain medical criteria; providing a certain exception under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the health of mothers and infants.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354KK, 470AA, and 477KK
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1994 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article - Health - General
Section 19-1305.4
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1990 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a cause of severe mental retardation and can be prevented if diagnosed within the first three weeks after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, The State's laws direct the screening of newborn infants for hereditary and congenital disorders in the hospital prior to discharge; and

WHEREAS, Hospital stays of less than 24 hours after childbirth typically result in unsatisfactory PKU specimens as a result of insufficient milk feedings, and the incidence of unsatisfactory PKU specimens has risen from 5% in 1989, to 30% in the second half of 1992, to 40% in 1993, and 25% of infants with unsatisfactory PKU specimens never receive a subsequent screening; and