**Section 264.1950 Discharge Policies and Procedures**

a) The maximum length of stay in a birth center shall be consistent with existing State laws (See 215 ILCS 5/356s) allowing a 48-hour stay or appropriate post-delivery care if the postpartum person and infant are discharged earlier than 48 hours.

b) The birth center shall develop a discharge plan of care for all postpartum persons and infants.

c) The discharge plan shall be based on the assessment of the postpartum person's and infant's needs by the various disciplines responsible for their care.

d) The postpartum person and infant shall be discharged from the birth center when both are clinically stable and have met the discharge criteria established by the birth center.

e) The postpartum person and infant shall not be discharged prior to four hours after the time of birth.

f) The birth center shall provide the postpartum person with written discharge instructions. The discharge instructions shall include written guidelines detailing how the mother may obtain emergency assistance for themselves and their infant and completion of newborn screening(s) as required per Section 264.1800.

g) The birth center shall develop and implement written policies to provide follow-up postnatal and postpartum care to the infant and the postpartum person, either directly or by referral. Follow-up care may be provided in the birth center, at the postpartum person's preferred location, by telehealth, or by a combination of these methods.