

Client pre-transfer instructions

Parents-to-be: While most community births are completed as planned, sometimes transfer to a higher level of care is necessary. These steps will help the transfer be as smooth as possible, should it be necessary for you.

Your name:

Your cell phone number:

- ☐ **Give your midwife the names and cell phone number of people who might attend your birth.**

Partner:

Doula:

Family:

Friends:

Having this information will help everyone to contact each other should travel in separate vehicles be needed.

- ☐ **Practice driving to potential transfer hospital(s)**, and find the entrances for Emergency, Labor & Delivery (Women's Center), and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), if the hospital has one, and their parking areas. *Transfers can occur via ambulance or private vehicle. Your midwife's decision to transfer to a particular hospital may depend on the types of services offered by hospitals in your area, so be sure to visit them all.*
- ☐ **Have your ID and insurance documents ready** and in a place you can get to them easily during the birth. *These documents will be required at the hospital. You'll be able to leave for the hospital sooner if you can find them easily.*
- ☐ **Have clothes and shoes/slippers prepared to wear to the hospital.** *The best are loose-fitting items that are easy to get on and off. Have them ready to go at the birth.*
- ☐ **Prepare a bag for the hospital stay** and have it ready at the birth. You will need at least toiletries, wallet, and cell phone. *Having these items ready will let you leave for the hospital sooner than if you have to get them together after a decision is made to transfer.*
- ☐ **Have an infant car seat strapped into the back seat of your car, ready to go.** Know how to **remove** and **reinstall** the car seat **and base**. *Sometimes babies need to transfer, so you need to be ready in case that happens. But, if the mother transfers before the baby is born, you may need the space occupied by the car seat for the mother on the way to the hospital. Remember, you'll also need a way to get the baby home from the hospital when they are discharged.*
- ☐ **Have your car parked "nose out" so you don't have to back up to leave for the hospital.** *Accidents can occur when the driver is backing up. Don't let this interfere with your transfer.*