

My Mercy Birth Plan



Expectant Mother's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Expectant Mother's Physician _____

Baby's Physician _____ Baby's Due Date _____

My Labor Support Team • I plan to have the following people with me during my labor and birth:

Partner _____ Relationship _____

Doula _____

Other visitor _____ Relationship _____

Other visitor _____ Relationship _____

Other visitor _____ Relationship _____

Comfort Measures • I plan to try these additional comfort measures (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Walking, squatting and using a birth ball
- ☐ Labor in water using a shower or tub
- ☐ Listening to music (please bring your own)
- ☐ Massage
- ☐ Aromatherapy (scented oils, fresh flowers- please bring your own)
- ☐ Wear my own clothes during labor (hospital gowns are also available)

Monitoring My Contractions and Baby's Heart Rate • I would prefer (check all that apply):

- ☐ Checking on the well-being of my baby using intermittent monitoring
- ☐ Continuous electronic monitoring placed with elastic belts around my abdomen
- ☐ Using a telemetry unit (when available) so I can be monitored while up and about in my room or hallways
- ☐ Placement of internal monitors using a fetal scalp electrode and/or intrauterine pressure catheter if medically necessary
- ☐ Whatever is recommended by my physician for the safety of myself and baby

Intravenous Access (IV) • I prefer to have IV access using this method:

- ☐ Saline Lock - access into a vein with short tubing and no fluid attached
- ☐ Continuous IV - access into a vein with tubing and fluids attached

Pain Management • I plan to:

- ☐ Labor and give birth with little or no intervention so please don't offer pain medication. I will let you know if I change my mind.
- ☐ Narcotic pain medication given into my IV if safe for me and my baby
- ☐ Epidural anesthesia

Bag of Water Breaking • I would prefer to:

- ☐ Allow my bag of water to break on its own
- ☐ Have my bag of water artificially broken if medically necessary

Pushing Preferences and Birth • I would like to try (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Lying on my side to push
- ☐ Squatting in bed using the squat bar
- ☐ Sitting upright in bed
- ☐ On all fours

Episiotomy • I would prefer to:

- ☐ Not have an episiotomy
- ☐ Whatever is recommended by my physician for the safety of myself and baby

Cutting the Umbilical Cord • I plan to:

- ☐ Have my labor partner cut the umbilical cord
- ☐ I would prefer that my physician cut the umbilical cord

Cord Blood Collection and Donation • I plan to:

- ☐ Donate my baby's cord blood to the public donor blood bank
- ☐ Arrange for collection of my baby's cord blood for my own private use (Private company I will be using: _____)
- ☐ I do not plan to have my baby's cord blood collected for private or public use

Immediate Care of My Baby Following Birth •

I plan to (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Have my baby placed skin-to-skin with me on my chest immediately following the birth
- ☐ Have the nurse clean my baby off first and then placed in my arms for bonding
- ☐ If possible I would prefer to have little or no separation from my baby

Feeding My Baby • I plan to (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Initiate breastfeeding shortly after the birth
- ☐ Exclusively breastfeed my baby on demand
- ☐ Pump and give my baby breastmilk from a bottle
- ☐ Bottle feed my baby with infant formula.
Formula preference:
☐ Similac ☐ Enfamil ☐ GoodStart

Pacifiers • I would prefer:

- ☐ Not allow the use of pacifiers or bottles during the hospital stay
- ☐ Allow pacifiers for my bottle fed baby

Administration of Antibiotic Eye Drops •

I would prefer:

- ☐ Administration of antibiotic eye drops per hospital routine
- ☐ Delaying the administration of antibiotic eye drops for up to one hour after the birth

Circumcision • I plan to (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Have my baby boy circumcised
- ☐ Not have my baby boy circumcised
- ☐ I would like to arrange for a Bris at the hospital eight days after my baby boys birth

Rooming In and Bonding With My Baby • I plan to (check all that are desired):

- ☐ Keep my baby with me as much as possible
- ☐ Have my formula-fed baby cared for in the newborn nursery at night
- ☐ Keep my breastfed baby with me at all times including overnight to learn feeding cues
- ☐ Observe naptime each afternoon and limit visitors during this time
- ☐ Have my partner spend the night during my hospital stay

Other Things that are Important to Me:

This birth plan serves as a communication tool between you, your physician and your nursing staff. It helps us know what is most important to you during your baby's birth and hospital stay. The birth process is unique to each woman and can be unpredictable. Expect that you may need to alter your birth plan if health becomes a concern. You can trust our team to honor your wishes while protecting you and your baby. Bring your completed birth plan to one of your prenatal visits. Your physician will review your plan and answer questions that you may have about what to expect during the labor and birth of your baby.

***Signatures**

Expectant Mother _____ Date _____

Physician _____ Date _____

**Signatures serve to acknowledge the expectant mother's birth preferences and that her physician is aware of her wishes.*