

## Oregon Perinatal Collaborative Community Birth Transfer Partnership

### Tips for Welcoming Community Birth Transfers

- Welcome the patient and their support people warmly
- Treat the patient and their support people with respect
- Acknowledge the fear or disappointment they may be feeling about the change in care plan and environment. You can say something like:
  - “I know this is not what you planned. Is there anything we can do to help you in this transition to the hospital?”
  - “I’m happy to care for you. I’m sorry that your birth is going differently than you hoped. I know how hard you worked to have a home birth (or birth center birth).”
- Keep mother and baby together whenever possible
- Treat community midwives with an attitude of mutual respect. You and the community midwife(s) are a care team.
  - It puts patients at ease to see their providers collaborating respectfully
- Provide slow and thorough informed consent about procedures or interventions
  - Remember to provide informed consent about things that you may consider routine such as vaginal exams or rupture of membranes
  - Seek brief but clear informed consent even in an emergency
  - Informed consent makes a difference in patient experience of care. Community midwifery clients expect it at all times
- Do not assume that the patient is not ready for interventions upon arrival. In some situations, the community midwife and patient will have already thoroughly discussed a plan for an epidural and Pitocin augmentation or a needed cesarean section
- Work with the community midwife to communicate with the patient about needed procedures or interventions if there is resistance. Many patients will want to hear the midwife’s opinion or advice or talk privately with their support person and midwife before consenting
- Ask midwives for information and input as needed. Midwives know lots about their patients and what has happened so far.
  - Some receiving providers find including the community midwife in the care when appropriate helps ease the transition and improve the patient experience of care
- Coordinate postpartum care with the community midwife
- If you have concerns about follow-up care after discharge, communicate them directly to the community midwife.
- Ensure that records and discharge summary are sent to the community midwife.