

# Our Policies regarding Labor and Delivery

To: Our New Obstetrical Patients

From: The Providers and Staff of OB-GYN Associates

RE: Pregnancy, Labor and Delivery Plans

Congratulations on your pregnancy and welcome to OB-GYN Associates. Thank you for entrusting your health and the health of your baby to our care. We strive to provide the highest quality of care to each of our patients during this very special time. We understand that each woman's pregnancy is unique. Some patients have special requests for their labor experience with regards to specifics, such as pain management options, limited use of episiotomy, the ability to move, walk, or use the tub during early labor, who cuts the umbilical cord, etc. Where possible and medically safe, we try to accommodate these requests.

However, there are some requirements for Labor and Delivery that we must adhere to, in accordance with the standards of care of our community, regulations of Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, and our own wealth of experience in both "routine" and "high-risk" obstetrics.

1) **ALL PATIENTS SHOULD HAVE IV ACCESS.** Most patients in labor will have fluids running to assure proper hydration and maintenance of blood pressure. In some instances, an IV may be placed and capped (hep-locked) without being attached to a bag of fluids, allowing it to be used in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

2) **ALL PATIENTS MUST HAVE THE BABY'S (OR BABIES) HEART RATE(S) MONITORED.** Most patients will have continuous electronic fetal monitoring. In some circumstances, internal monitoring may be required. In rare cases, and in the absolute absence of ANY complicating circumstances, intermittent fetal monitoring may be acceptable in accordance with Wellstar Kennestone Hospital protocols.

3) **THERE MAY BE LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF VISITORS, FAMILY MEMBERS, OR SUPPORT PERSONS ALLOWED IN THE DELIVERY ROOM.** The staff of Wellstar Kennestone Hospital and the Providers of OB-GYN Associates reserve the right to exercise their judgment in this matter. This is important to protect the privacy of the patient during this special time. Also, medical circumstances may direct the need for additional staff members or equipment to be present in support of the mother or baby. It is preferable that children under the age of 13 not be permitted during the delivery. Finally, only ONE support person is allowed to be present during a Cesarean Section. Some emergency situations will prohibit a support person from being in the room.

4) **WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TREAT BOTH MOTHER AND BABY WITHOUT CLINICAL LIMITATIONS.** Although, life-threatening emergencies do not often arise, the providers of OB-GYN Associates will treat the mother and baby accordingly, without restrictions placed upon us by the patient, spouse, family members

medications, BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS, resuscitative efforts, and/or the use of specialized monitoring devices.

6) THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY EXCLUDE SPECIFIC BIRTH PLANS DESIRED BY THE PATIENT. Unfortunately, the above requirements are not consistent with many "childbirth plans" such as Bradley Method, among others. We are therefore unable to provide care in accordance with these prescribed plans which do not permit some of the requirements outlined above. If you find these requirements unacceptable, please feel free to discuss your concerns with us. If we are not able to satisfy these concerns you may need to consider seeking care elsewhere. While we do strive to attend to each patient's individual needs and desires during childbirth, our first priority is the safety and health of both mother and child.

7) DURING YOUR PREGNANCY WE MUST HAVE A SELECT GROUP OF LABWORK DRAWN OR OBTAINED. In order to provide the best care to you and your baby you will be sent for an OB Panel- this includes a HIV screen. STD testing is done with your PAP smear or a urine specimen. We reserve the right to send a DRUG SCREEN when indicated. A glucose screen must also be done at a later time. Compliance with these orders is essential to maintaining a solid patient/provider relationship.

Thank you again for trusting us to take care of you during this critical time in your life. It is our honor and privilege to do so. We hope to make this experience as special and rewarding for you as it is for us.

Sincerely,

G.B. ESPY, MD \_\_\_\_\_

TERRY KELLEY, MD \_\_\_\_\_

KIMBERLY HUFFMAN, MD \_\_\_\_\_

MARY CHAPPELL, MD \_\_\_\_\_

KEVIN WINDOM, MD \_\_\_\_\_

BOBBY TACKITT, MD \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the above policies regarding Pregnancy, Labor and Delivery

X \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Signature