



Purpose

To promote collegial, respectful communication and provide safe care guidelines to address intrapartum, postpartum or neonatal patient transport from planned community birth center/home birth.

Support Data

The Smooth Transitions Quality Improvement Program is a statewide quality improvement initiative to enhance the safety of hospital transfers from planned community-based births.

To better support patients entering the hospital system, Skagit Regional Health seeks to establish an interdisciplinary in person hand-off at the bedside, if possible, with the goals of improving safety, efficiency, collaboration between community midwives, EMS and the hospital care team, thus enhancing the patient experience when transfers of care occur. If an in person handoff isn't possible then it is recommended to do a provider-provider conversation.

Recognition of the community midwife as a primary care provider who has transferred to a facility due to the need for advanced resources and skilled personnel is essential. Hospital staff provide safe, respectful care to the patient and integrate patient preferences with any necessary interventions. In order to facilitate a smooth transition during the prenatal course, the community midwife discusses the possibility of needing to transfer to a higher level of care facility during the intrapartum or immediate postpartum care for birthing person or for baby care.

Procedure

1. Community midwives should encourage their clients to watch the FBC tour prior to their due date.
2. In the event of needing to transfer to the hospital, community midwife explains reason for the transport, and anticipates care procedures to patient and family including the visitor policy.
3. Community midwife calls Skagit Valley Hospital Charge Nurse at 360-428-2297 or Cascade Valley Hospital Birth Center at 360-618-7754 to ensure transfer can be accepted.
4. The FBC staff will connect the community midwife to receiving OB provider (hospitalist, or OB provider on call for no doc patients, or CNM, with the goal of community midwife to CNM transfer, if available) or the Pediatric Hospitalist/Pediatric provider.
5. At CVH, the FBC staff will transfer the call to the provider (not give out personal cell phone number) after the accepting provider has a handoff from the FBC staff member.
6. Community midwives will complete the appropriate (Maternal or Neonatal) transfer form and bring all prenatal/labor care notes to the Birth Center. The records could also be faxed to CVH @ 360-618-7654 or SVH @ 360-428-8214
7. The Hospital team recognizes the community midwife has an established relationship with patient:
 - A. If possible, community midwife will accompany patient to hospital and facilitate a smooth transfer and continuity of care
 - B. Huddle to review plan of care with community midwife, patient and hospital care team
 - C. Provide ongoing support for patient
8. If possible, the delivering provider will contact the community midwife to review the delivery and the transfer.

9. Prior to discharge, the discharging RN will contact the community midwife if there is any patient follow-up needed for the postpartum person and/or newborn. The discharge RN or UA will fax the following paperwork to the community midwife office, once a medical records release form is signed.

- A. Labs (birth person & baby)
- B. OB discharge summary
- C. Newborn discharge summary
- D. Surgical notes, if applicable
- E. Delivery Summary
- F. Triage notes, if patient discharged from triage

10. Leadership will encourage completion of Smooth transitions survey (QR code) by all members involved in hospital birth transfer, e.g. community midwife, receiving provider, nursing, EMS and patient.

OB/NB/Peds Committee approval 9/1/22

W & C Division approval 9/21/22

References

Reference Type	Title	Notes
Documents referenced by this document		
Referenced Documents	SVH tour	
Referenced Documents	CVH Tour	
Referenced Documents	Nursing staff QR Code	
Referenced Documents	Provider QR Code	
Documents which reference this document		
Referenced Documents	ED Screening of OB Patients - CVH	
Signed/Approved By	(10/06/2022) SRH Policy Procedure Committee	
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