

Swedish Midwifery – COVID Response Out of Hospital Midwife Transfer of Care

During this difficult time, Swedish Midwifery is committed to partnering with our out-of-hospital colleagues in caring for our shared community. We recognize that more patients will be exploring out of hospital birth options, and hope to make any transitions as gentle as possible.

Swedish Midwifery may accept homebirth transfer patients from licensed midwives (LMs) and midwifery groups whose patients have planned an out-of-hospital birth but develop the need for hospital-based care. The decision to accept a transfer patient is at the discretion of the Swedish midwife on-call and the OB physician on-call. Our midwives, obstetricians, and charge nurses will make every effort to welcome and care for your patients whenever we are able.

Direct midwife-midwife transfers are available at the following campuses:

Swedish Midwifery First Hill
Swedish Midwifery Ballard
Swedish Midwifery Issaquah

All transfer candidates must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Documented regular prenatal care
- 2) Completed anatomy scan
- 3) Gestational diabetes testing
- 4) Pre-pregnancy BMI <40
- 5) Negative for cough, shortness of breath, and temperature >100

Swedish Midwifery may accept intrapartum transfers for the following conditions:

- Spontaneous labor with need for augmentation between 35-42 weeks
- Meconium stained amniotic fluid
- Maternal exhaustion
- Maternal desire for pain relief or hospital transport
- PROM or spontaneous labor > 35 weeks gestation (First Hill and Issaquah) or >36 weeks (Ballard)
- Need for medical induction of labor, depending on indication (ie. oligohydramnios, pre-eclampsia without severe features)

Swedish Midwifery is unable to accept transfers for any of the following:

- Arrest of 2nd stage labor
- Spontaneous or threatened labor prior to 35 weeks gestation

- Preterm (prior to 35 weeks) rupture of membranes
- Non-vertex presentation
- Pre-eclampsia with severe features
- Sustained maternal fever or other evidence of maternal infection
- Or if in the best judgment of the attending LM, the patient has obvious need for cesarean delivery or physician care

The Laborist at Swedish First Hill should be contacted regarding any transfers with sustained maternal fever, other evidence of infection or concern for possible COVID-19 infection.

Work flow

In the event of a proposed intrapartum transfer, the licensed midwife pages the on-call CNM with a brief report. If transfer is able to be accepted, the LM will provide complete prenatal care and full report. On patient's arrival to Swedish Medical, the on-call CNM will assume medical care of the patient.

Post-dates or other medical inductions: Please contact on-call CNM during daytime hours to schedule.