



GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

You may have given very little or no thought at all about going to the hospital to have your baby. As midwives, we sometimes have to recommend that a woman or baby go to the hospital. We can make this decision during the prenatal period, labor or postpartum. Ultimately our goal is to have a healthy mom and baby.

If the complication is not an emergency, (most of our transports are for non-emergencies) we will discuss the problem and decide when and where to go. We will call ahead and speak with the receiving physician about our expected needs for you and your baby. Based on that conversation and individual circumstances, we will either transport in your car or in an emergency medical services vehicle. We will always accompany you to the hospital and stay with you throughout your care in hospital. We are usually treated respectfully and, while we cannot always guarantee that we will get a doctor who is happy to be working with midwives, we will always be your advocates and try to smooth over the transition from home to hospital.

If the complication is a true emergency we will call 911 for quickest transfer to an appropriate facility. We will also call ahead to the receiving hospital to share relevant information about the situation.

Sometimes after a transport there can be feelings of disappointment and failure, for everyone. We usually question ourselves about what we could have done differently and wonder if maybe we would have been OK at home. The real issue here is the maybe. If we do not feel absolutely sure that everything is progressing normally at home then we will let you know what our concerns are and why we think transport to the hospital would be safest. We don't usually plan on going to the hospital, but we are truly grateful that the expertise and technology is there when we need it. Your feelings and desires are very important to us and we will make the decision together.

What to bring with you to the hospital:

- Wallet w/insurance information
- Car keys
- Change of clothes: mom, baby, and dad
- Water and snacks
- Toiletries
- Infant car seat