

Shared Decision Making *Conditions which may require collaboration or referral:*

While the course of childbearing is a healthy human function, complications may arise unpredictably and suddenly, which may be a hazard of or be aggravated by the stresses of childbearing or being born. The midwives can treat some pregnancy, labor or postpartum complications at home. Others require discussion, consultation, collaboration and/or referral.

These conditions include but are not limited to:

Congenital Anomalies – Birth defects may or may not be detectable by prenatal testing.

Prematurity or Postmaturity – The baby is born before 37 weeks or after 42 weeks gestation.

Rupture of Membranes without Labor – The amniotic sac breaks and labor does not begin on its own.

Arrest of Descent – The baby does not move through the pelvis in labor because of his or her size or position.

Fetal Distress – An abnormal heart rate pattern detected during labor may signal fetal intolerance of labor.

Meconium-Stained Amniotic Fluid – The baby passing stool before birth may indicate fetal stress.

Shoulder Dystocia – The baby's shoulders are lodged in the pelvis after the head is born, requiring maternal repositioning and manipulation by the midwife to facilitate birth in a timely manner.

Cord Prolapse and other Cord Problems – The umbilical cord is compressed, which reduces the baby's oxygen supply or the cord is very short or wrapped around the baby.

Uterine Rupture – A tear in the uterine wall may lead to hemorrhage or other complications.

Postpartum Hemorrhage – Excessive blood loss can usually be treated and/or stopped using maneuvers, medications and intravenous fluids.

Malpresentation – The baby is breech, his/her head doesn't enter the pelvis or it is poorly positioned.

Neonatal Asphyxia – The baby does not breathe independently after birth and requires resuscitation.

Stillbirth – The baby dies before birth.

Cardiac Arrest – The heart stops beating.

Amniotic Fluid Embolism – In this rare complication, amniotic fluid enters maternal circulation, causing respiratory distress.

Absolute Contraindications for Homebirth:

Placenta Previa – The placenta partially or completely covers the cervix, which may cause dangerous bleeding and requires surgical birth. This is diagnosed by ultrasound.

Placental Abruption – The placenta separates from the uterine wall before the baby is born.

Uncontrolled gestational hypertension – High blood pressure can reduce blood flow to the placenta and restrict fetal growth. It can also make labor challenging for the baby and affect breastfeeding.

Preeclampsia – This metabolic disease of pregnancy can restrict fetal growth and is dangerous to both baby and mother. If untreated, preeclampsia can result in seizures and death.

I am aware of these potential complications and understand that I may request more detailed and complete explanations of these conditions and other risks, consequences and conditions. I do not desire further explanation at this time. I am aware that the practices of medicine, nursing and midwifery are not exact sciences and I acknowledge that no guarantees or assurances have been made to me concerning the results of the treatment, examinations and procedures to be performed.

Print Name _____ **Sign** _____ **Date** _____