

Interviewing Homebirth Midwives: Questions to Ask

Education and Experience

How many births have you attended as a primary attendant?

How much total experience do you have in birth work, and in what roles?

Are you licensed to practice in this state? If not, why not? How does your licensing status impact your practice and what happens in the event of transfer?

Are you certified in neonatal resuscitation? What other certifications do you hold?

To what professional organizations do you belong?

Do you carry malpractice coverage for your home birth practice?

How much time do you allocate to continuing your education? Tell me about the last continuing education program you participated in.

How do you participate in the education of the new midwives? Do you take on apprentices and/or give training workshops?

Please describe your personal involvement in improving maternity care at the local, state or national level (if applicable.)

Philosophy of Care and Practice Guidelines

Please describe your overall approach to labor and birth.

What makes a woman and family appropriate for home birth?

What are some specific conditions that would make home birth too risky for a woman and family? Please explain.

What are specific conditions that can arise in labor that would require transfer of care to a hospital setting? Please explain.

With what hospital based providers do you have a collaborative relationship with to facilitate transfer of care if that is necessary?

How does my care change if we discover that I am having twins (or more)? What is the local standard of care? If your care would differ from the local standard of care, please explain how and why it differs.

How does my care change if we discover that my baby is breech at term? What is the local standard of care for breech birth? If your care would differ from the local standard of care, please explain how and why it differs.

How does my care change if I have had previous uterine surgery or cesarean birth? What is the local standard of care for mothers seeking VBAC? If your care would differ from the local standard of care, please explain how and why it differs.

What are your practice guidelines and treatment options for RH negative women?

What are your practice guidelines and treatment options for Group B Strep?

Practice Profile

What is your c-section rate? Transfer rate? Emergency transfer rate? Have you experienced any poor outcomes as a home birth provider? If so, please explain.

How many births do you commit to attending per month? Explain how you chose this limit and why.

How many times in the last year have you missed a birth? Please list any reasons why you might not be present for a birth.

What is your back up plan in case you are unable to attend a birth?

How much time do you normally spend with a family for a birth and postpartum?

What medical supplies do you have with you when attending a birth?

Does this practice accept insurance? Is billing performed in house or do you have a billing agency? Is there someone I can talk to about my insurance coverage for home birth care?