TriHealth

INFORMED CONSENT FOR MATERNITY ADMISSION & CARE

☐ Bethesda North Hospital ☐ Good Samaritan Hospital ☐ McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital ☐ Other: _____

I, _____ (Date of Birth_____), consent for my practitioner, _____, or a colleague to deliver my infant(s) at the hospital indicated above. The hospitals are teaching hospitals and Resident Physicians are always available to respond to emergencies and to assist my provider. If involved, they are acting under the authority of my practitioner.

My practitioner(s) and I have had a conversation about the types of care that I may need and that unexpected changes to my care may arise during my maternity admission. I understand that this form is intended to address most of the care that commonly arises during a maternity admission.

Risks of Childbirth

Risks of pregnancy/childbirth are similar; regardless of how a baby is born. A vaginal delivery is the natural method of childbirth. Under most circumstances this is a safe process for the mother and the baby. There are circumstances where a **spontaneous** vaginal delivery is not possible, and a vacuum or forceps-assisted delivery or a cesarean section may be the safest option. A planned cesarean is sometimes necessary, too. Each of these delivery methods have some risks associated with them. I understand that by virtue of being pregnant, there are increased risks of certain illnesses during pregnancy, during delivery, and after the delivery. Examples of these are pneumonia and blood clot formation in major veins or the lungs during the pregnancy, bleeding and tears during delivery, and severe bleeding and blood clot formation after delivery. The above are some of the most common risks. Minor risks occur more commonly. Major risks occur more rarely. Medical problems that were present before pregnancy or occurred during pregnancy may contribute to the risks listed below.

Vaginal Delivery

The benefits of vaginal delivery include a more natural process with lower risks of bleeding, infection and pain compared to cesarean section. Most babies deliver without any significant injury to the mother or baby.

The risks of a vaginal delivery include, but are not limited to, infection, bleeding, bruising or tearing of vaginal tissue. Small vaginal tears occur commonly but deeper tears occur less commonly and can result in injury to the bladder or rectum. These injuries can result in future involuntary loss of urine or stool. Other risks include severe blood loss requiring transfusion or removal of the uterus, blood clots in the legs or lungs, nerve injury, possible chronic pain making future sex or child bearing difficult. Difficulties may arise with anesthesia including allergic reactions. In rare cases patients may suffer death or brain damage.

Sometimes spontaneous vaginal delivery needs to be assisted using forceps or vacuum device. The risks of assisted vaginal delivery include, but are not limited to, more extensive bruising or tearing of vagina, including into the rectum. Assisted vaginal delivery can lead to bruising or cuts on the baby.

Sometimes there are difficulties with delivery of the baby, including difficulty delivering the baby's shoulders, requiring life-saving maneuvers. While every effort is made to minimize the risk to the baby the baby can suffer injury such as bruising, broken bones, cuts, nerve injury or death. The alternative to a vaginal delivery is a cesarean section.

Cesarean Section

The benefits of cesarean section include a much smaller risk of tearing the cervix or vagina or rectum. There is also a much lower risk of unexpected injury to the baby's shoulders or head. The risks, however, are never zero.

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The risks of cesarean section include, but are not limited to, infection, disfiguring scar, poor healing of the scar resulting in a hernia and internal scarring resulting in chronic pain. There may also be injury to structures such as the bladder and/or bowel which could result in future involuntary loss of urine or stool. There could be damage to the tubes connecting the kidneys to the bladder or damage to large blood vessels. Bleeding risks may result in the need for removal of the uterus. Delivering a baby by cesarean section may require the need for repeat cesarean section for future deliveries or result in other risks associated with a trial of labor in future pregnancies. Other risks include severe blood loss requiring transfusion and blood clots in the legs or lungs. Difficulties may arise with anesthesia including allergic reactions. In rare cases patients may suffer death or brain damage.

Sometimes there are difficulties with delivery of the baby requiring life-saving maneuvers. While every effort is made to minimize the risk to the baby, the baby can suffer injury such as bruising, broken bones, cuts or death. The alternative to a cesarean section is a vaginal delivery.

Induction of Labor

Labor induction is the use of medications or other methods to bring on (induce) labor.
Labor is induced to stimulate contractions of the uterus in an effort to have a vaginal birth. Labor induction may be recommended if the health of the mother or fetus is at risk. In special situations, labor is induced for nonmedical reasons. This is called elective induction. Elective induction should not occur before 39 weeks of pregnancy.

With some methods, the uterus can be overstimulated causing it to contract too frequently. Too many contractions may lead to changes in the fetal heart rate and umbilical cord problems. Other risks of cervical ripening and labor induction may include infection in the mother or baby, uterine rupture, increased risk of cesarean birth, and fetal death. Prolonged pregnancy, greater than 42 weeks, can increase risks for both mother and baby.

Anesthesia

I understand that I may need sedation, anesthesia or an epidural for the birth, whether vaginal or cesarean section, and that this will be provided by an independent practitioner (other than the OB practitioner delivering my infant). I am to discuss the risks, benefits and alternatives of receiving sedation, anesthesia or an epidural with the anesthesia practitioner.

Pain Control

My practitioner advised me that post-delivery pain is to be expected. My practitioner discussed the risks, benefits and alternatives of opiate medications to control pain, including but not limited to the risk of addiction and overdose if misused. The risk of addiction is higher if you suffer from mental health or substance use disorders. It may be dangerous to take opiate pain medications with benzodiazepines or alcohol. We also discussed that the goal of opiates, if utilized, is to control, but not completely eliminate pain. I am also aware that opiate therapy will be stopped shortly after delivery.

Circumcision

If a male child is born, my practitioner(s) has explained the material risks, benefits, alternatives (including risks and benefits of the alternatives) to circumcision of my infant. I understand how the procedure is performed, if anesthesia or other pain relief medications will be used, and that circumcision can involve blood loss, injury to the penis and infection. My practitioner(s) has also explained that conditions of the penis such as hypospadias (abnormal location of urethra), micro-penis, and/or shaft distortion may make circumcision unadvisable or lead to a partial circumcision, if the procedure is started before these conditions are known. Although a small risk, I understand that the circumcision may need to be revised later in life. I understand that sometimes additional treatments are needed immediately after the circumcision, and if that occurs, I give my permission to proceed.

I understand that another physician, other than the practitioner(s) that delivered my son, may perform the circumcision on my son.

Initial your decision below.

_____I elect and consent to circumcision of my son.
_____I refuse circumcision of my son.

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Postpartum placement of a LARC (Long-acting reversible contraceptive)

Available only at Bethesda North and McCullough Hyde Hospitals

My practitioner(s) explained to me that immediate postpartum placement of an intrauterine device (Mirena or Paragard) or Nexplanon implant is possible. I understand that placement of an intrauterine device in the immediate postpartum period has an increased rate of expulsion averaging 14% but up to 24% in some studies. My practitioner(s) has also discussed conditions that may not allow for immediate postpartum insertion.

Initial your decision below.

_____I elect and consent to immediate postpartum IUD placement.

_____I elect and consent to postpartum Nexplanon placement.

_____I decline immediate postpartum placement of a LARC

Teaching Hospital

I understand that the hospital is a teaching facility and that assistants, residents, trainees and others may participate in my care based on their skill set and scope of practice and as permitted under state law and for which they have been granted privileges by the hospital. These individuals will be under the supervision of my practitioner(s).

Tissue Disposal

I agree to allow the hospital to dispose of, or use for scientific or educational purposes, any tissue or body parts that are taken out during my care.

Lab Testing

I understand that for my safety and that of my infant(s) a blood and urine sample will be obtained that will be used for conditions including syphilis, presence of drugs or controlled substances, anemia and other blood disorders. If positive results are obtained, subsequent testing will be completed on my infant(s) as necessary.

Blood and Blood Products

I discussed with my practitioner that receiving blood and/or blood products may be advisable or even lifesaving during my care or my infant's care. Receiving blood or blood products has the risk of transmission of infections such as HIV, hepatitis B & C virus, and serious bacteria, as well as other risks, including but not limited to allergic reactions, fevers, hives, fluid overload, destruction of the transfused cells, lung inflammation and immune disorders. I understand that blood and blood products are extensively screened for infectious agents, but no testing can absolutely prevent infection transmission. I acknowledge that no guarantees have been given to me by my practitioner, the hospital, any blood bank, or any person or entity as to the safety or efficacy of the blood or blood products I receive. I allow my practitioner(s) to give me and/or my infant blood or blood products.

I have read this form or had it read to me; fully understand the material risks, benefits, and alternatives (including the risks and benefits of these alternatives) of the care I am to receive; the likelihood of achieving my goals by receiving this care; and the potential problems that might occur during my recovery. I understand that no guarantee has been given to me about the outcome of the care I am to receive. I have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction and consent to the above care and method of delivery agreed to with my practitioner.

Trial of Labor after Cesarean Delivery (TOLAC)

If applicable, my practitioner and I have discussed the purpose, risks and benefits of TOLAC, some, but not all of which, are included in this document. I understand that my care providers may have to change my plan for TOLAC if they feel the risks of TOLAC have increased or if other factors occur that require changing my plan. My practitioner and I have talked about, and I understand:

- I have two options for the birth of my baby: TOLAC and a repeat cesarean section.
- Possible risks of TOLAC include, but are not limited to:
  - A tear or opening in the uterus (womb) is a known risk of TOLAC; for most patients, this risk is less than 1%. Tears in the uterus during TOLAC are more common in labor that is induced (labor that does not start on its own), labor

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that requires medicine to increase the strength of your contractions, a previous cesarean section less than 18 months prior to TOLAC, previous cesarean sections that did not utilize a low transverse (side to side) incision, and in women who have had more than one cesarean section.

- If a tear in the uterus occurs, the risks to the mother include blood loss, possible need for blood transfusion, damage to the uterus that may require a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), damage to internal organs including the bladder, bowel and/or ureter; infection, blood clots, and, very rarely, death.
- If a tear in the uterus occurs, risks to the baby include brain damage and death.
- TOLAC may be unsuccessful, which would lead to a repeat cesarean section. I understand that a repeat cesarean section after unsuccessful TOLAC carries greater risk than a planned cesarean section without TOLAC, including higher chance of infection, blood loss and transfusion, blood clots, and hysterectomy.
- The normal risks of a vaginal birth are still present even with a successful VBAC.

- Possible benefits of TOLAC and VBAC include:
  - Shorter recovery time after delivery and shorter hospital stay.
  - Lower infection risk after delivery.
  - Little to no chance of surgical complications (such as infection, injury to internal organs, blood loss).
  - Lower risk of my baby experiencing breathing problems after delivery.
  - Quicker return to my normal activities following delivery.
  - Greater chance of having a successful vaginal birth in later pregnancies.
  - Lower risk of my placenta having problems attaching in future pregnancies.

_____	_____	_____	_____AM/PM
Patient or Legal Representative Signature	**Relationship of Legal Representative (If applicable)**	**Date**	**Time**
_____	_____	_____	_____AM/PM
Witness Signature	**Witness Name**	**Date**	**Time**

I have explained to the patient the purpose of the above care and any reasonable alternatives, the anticipated benefits, the material risks, the likelihood of the patient achieving his/her goals, the potential problems that might occur during recovery, and the reasonably likely results of not receiving the care.

_____	_____	_____AM/PM
Practitioner Signature	**Date**	**Time**

_____	_____	_____	_____AM/PM
Resident Name (if applicable)	**Resident Signature**	**Date**	**Time**

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