

MIDWIFERY FAQS

WHAT IS A MIDWIFE?

A Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) is trained as a nurse and as a midwife. Most CNMs have Master's degrees, and all are certified by examination through The American College of Nurse-Midwives. They provide care in birth centers, hospitals and in the home. Midwives can deliver babies and independently treat women's health conditions.

DO MIDWIVES ONLY DO HOME BIRTHS?

While some midwives do offer home births, the midwives at Spring View Hospital deliver babies in the hospital. We also see expectant mothers in the office for their prenatal care.

DO I NEED A DOCTOR TO DELIVER MY BABY?

No. A midwife is fully trained to deliver babies. There is a practice agreement between CNMs and physicians. They participate in collaborative patient care and will complete a referral for high risk situations. The CNMs will often be the first to assist during caesarean sections and continue to be present for continuity of care after the delivery.

IF A MIDWIFE DELIVERS MY BABY, CAN I STILL HAVE AN EPIDURAL?



Yes! We can order your epidural when you are ready for it and work with the anesthesiologists at the hospital to get it placed. Midwives can also order intravenous pain medications if you need pain relief but don't want to be completely numb. If you want a more natural experience, midwives can provide labor support by teaching you breathing techniques, encouraging you to change positions, and recommending pain relief methods like soaking in a warm bath. Midwives also can teach your birthing partner how to help you through labor.

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DO MIDWIVES PERFORM CAESAREAN SECTIONS?

No. The midwives work collaboratively with the OB physicians. Should a caesarean section become necessary, the obstetrician would perform the caesarean section, often with the assistance of the midwife. After the surgery, the obstetrician will manage your recovery and the midwife is available for emotional support.

WHO WILL DELIVER MY BABY?

Our women's care services include two OB/GYN physicians, three certified nurse midwives, and three APRNs. The goal is for you to meet all of our providers during your prenatal visits. There is a midwife and OB on call at the hospital 24/7, and unless complications arise, the midwife will be first on call for deliveries.

DO I RECEIVE THE SAME LEVEL OF CARE WITH A CNM?

The CNMs at SVH pride themselves on offering a high standard of medical care, along with a very personalized experience. They set aside time to spend with each individual patient, and studies show that midwifery care can have equal or improved outcomes including lower rates of intervention, low birth weight babies, preterm labor, and caesarean sections.

WILL INSURANCE COVER MIDWIFERY CARE?

Yes, all major insurers in our area pay for midwifery care. We encourage you to call and verify coverage.



To find out more information regarding Spring View Hospital Women's Center Services or for a tour please call 270.692.5100

SpringViewHospital.com