Normal Prenatal Care Provided by Peaceful Birth Midwifery

A. The midwife's duties include a maternal, family, previous pregnancy/obstetric history; determination of dates; referral for PAP and other cultures as indicated; ordering of blood work (type & factor, antibody screen, rubella, CBC with differential, RPR and HbsAg). Other tests such as various titers, blood sugars, GBS cultures, HIV & MSAFP are available upon request. A diet history will be taken and nutritional recommendations made.

B. Following the initial visit, the client is rescheduled at 4-week intervals until 32 weeks, then every 2 weeks until 36 weeks, then weekly until she delivers.

C. Routine prenatal exams include weight, BP, urine dip for protein, glucose, nitrites, leukocytes, blood and ketones (if indicated), fundal height and baby's growth, fetal heart tones, baby's presentation and position, activity, and maternal nutritional, exercise, and psychosocial well-being. Any additional labs are to be ordered, including Hgb, Rh antibody screening, glucose tests if indicated, etc.

D. A chart is maintained for each woman and includes observations, lab results, records of consultations and referrals, records of L&D and postpartum care and all other pertinent medical and psychosocial data. This chart is to be made available upon request and with the client's written or verbal consent to any physician or other health care provider, who is called upon for consultation, referral or in the event of a hospital transport.

Issues relevant to a home birth are discussed during prenatal exams and at the home visit, including signs of labor, when and how to contact me, father's participation, sibling preparation and plans for them, meeting others who are invited to be present at the birth, nursing preparation and emergency transport.

Also noted is discussion of the parent's choice of newborn health care provider.