

Informed Consent for VBAC

Consent for Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Section At Home

1. I have had one or more previous cesarean sections (C/S), have records documenting a lower uterine segment incision, and desire a vaginal birth after C/S at home with my current pregnancy.

2. I have been informed of the following most recent (1994) guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), which state that:

The concept of routine repeat cesarean birth should be replaced by a specific decision process between the patient and the physician for a subsequent mode of delivery;

In the absence of contraindication, a woman with one previous cesarean delivery with a lower segment incision should be counseled and encouraged to undergo a trial of labor in her current pregnancy;

A woman who has had two or more previous cesarean deliveries with lower uterine segment incisions and who wishes to attempt vaginal birth should not be discouraged from doing so in the absence of contraindications;

A trial of labor and delivery should occur in a hospital setting that has professional resources to respond to acute intrapartum obstetrical emergencies.

3. My midwife has informed me regarding:
 - a. The relative risks of VBAC:

Complete rupture of the uterus: occurs in less than 1% of women having a VBAC; can lead to severe internal hemorrhage of the mother and death of the baby; this risk does not appear to be greater for women with a previous uterine incision than for women who have a normal uterus;

Incomplete rupture of the uterus: occurs about 1% of the time; no symptoms and usually does not require any additional care
 - b. The relative benefits of VBAC:

Prevention of death and potential complications of surgery (blood loss, infection, injury to bowel urinary tract, etc., blood clots in the legs), a Public Citizen Report places maternal death rate at 18.4 per 100,000 women with elective C/S and less than half that for a vaginal birth;

Faster recovery time after birth

Easier time with breast-feeding without abdominal incision

Less than half the cost of a C/S

Decreased death and injury in baby resulting from surgical delivery

Resultant positive emotional state from successful vaginal birth

I understand that, in the case of a complete uterine rupture, adverse consequences can be catastrophic in a matter of minutes. By choosing to have a VBAC outside of the hospital setting, I realize that I may not be

diagnosed as quickly as having a potential rupture and that I may not receive emergency treatment and/or surgery as quickly as I would if I were having my baby inside of the hospital. It is possible that loss of time in transfer could be harmful or even fatal to myself and/or my baby.

4. I have read the VBAC check list and will make every effort to follow those recommendations to ensure the best birth experience. I understand that my care giver makes these same recommendations to all women seeking a safe alternative to the medicalized model of birth.
5. After considering the above information, I believe that the benefits of VBAC at home outweigh the risks in my situation, and I choose to seek care with Valerie Monterrey, of Dove Charity home Birth Services and pursue a VBAC at home rather than in the hospital. I take full responsibility for my decision.

Client Signature/ Date Partner Signature/ Date

Midwife Signature/Date

Safety of VBAC

<http://www.gentlebirth.org/Midwife/icanvbac.html>

Safety of Home Birth and VBAC

<http://www.gentlebirth.org/Midwife/homevbac.html>

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<http://www.gentlebirth.org/Midwife/homevbac.html>

Journey to VBAC: What You Need to Know (Online Webinar)-\$15.00-Always Free Shipping

Presented by ICAN with Gretchen Humphries and Rose St. John, Journey to VBAC: What You Need to Know is a must for women planning a VBAC and their partners. You will learn about the basic issues surrounding VBAC plus answers to common questions such as, "Am I a good candidate for a VBAC?" and "How can I maximize my chances of having a vaginal birth next time around?" We also discuss one of the most important but often overlooked issues while planning a VBAC: the father's role in preventing a cesarean.

Check for online classes <http://www.ican-online.org/store>