

Considering a Homebirth?

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Department of Family Medicine at Michigan Medicine does **not** support or recommend home birth. We respect your right to make independent decisions about your health.

Our goal is to provide as much information as possible for you to make informed choices. We want you to understand you and your baby's individual risks and benefits based on planned site for birth. We value your honesty about your plans so that we can provide the best counseling.

How many women have home births?

About 1 in 100 women in the United States choose to have a home birth for a variety of reasons.

What are the risks?

Risks of homebirth include:

- Emergency life-threatening complications to both mother and baby. Delays in recognizing a complication and distance from the hospital can make a complication worse.
- The risk of babies born at home to have a newborn seizure or serious brain damage is more than 3 times higher than the risk of babies born in a hospital. About 3 in 2000 babies born at home suffer a seizure, compared with 1 in 2000 babies born in the hospital.
- The risk of babies born at home to die during the first month of life is more than 2 times higher than the risk of babies born in a hospital. About 4 in 1000 babies born at home die within the first month of life, compared with only 2 out of 1000 born in the hospital.

- For women who have higher risk pregnancies, the risk of death within the first month of life after a home birth is even greater.

We value your honesty about your plans so that we can provide the best advice for you.

If you continue to plan a homebirth, you are always welcome to:

- Continue receiving prenatal care at Michigan Medicine.
- Call with questions.
- Return to care at Michigan Medicine.
- You are always welcome in our hospital birth center and triage during labor/birth and postpartum.

*ACOG Committee Opinion. Planned Home Birth. Number 697. April 2017.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Joanne Motino Bailey, CNM PhD
Reviewer: Roger Smith, MD

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