



## WHO QUALIFIES FOR MIDWIFERY CARE?

As the pandemic begins to surge many are wondering how their care for pregnancy and birth will change. Midwives in Washington State have mobilized and created a coalition working closely with the state, OBs, and hospital systems to lend support for low risk expecting families.

We are getting a lot of inquiries from families trying to understand if they are good candidates for midwifery care. The answer to this is layered. When you schedule a visit with us or any midwife, the midwife will review your health history, your current lifestyle and life circumstances, how this model of care fits with your personality and interests, and your goals for pregnancy and birthing. We are looking at your known risk factors in combination with all of these other factors to determine if out of hospital birth and midwifery care are the right fit.

The hallmark of midwifery care is the individual aspect of the attention you get. While all midwives wish to care for you safely, some have different practice philosophies that entail who they believe to be high risk – so it's worth the call!

To find out if midwifery care is right for you, please [schedule a visit with us](#) or [your local midwife](#).

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***Below are a list of conditions that indicate you are safer birthing in a hospital.  
This list is not exhaustive. There are some risk factors that exist that are not listed here.***

Pre-existing conditions that exclude a person from out of hospital birth:

- 1) Seizure disorder
- 2) cardiac disease
- 3) renal disease with failure
- 4) insulin dependent diabetes mellitus

Conditions during pregnancy/labor that exclude a person from out of hospital birth:

- 1) Premature labor
- 2) Hypertension
- 3) GDM needing insulin management
- 4) Placenta previa
- 5) Rh Isoimmunization with rising titers
- 6) Known fetal anomaly requiring immediate attention postpartum
- 7) Active genital herpes outbreak
- 8) Vital signs outside of normal and concerning
- 9) Fetal lie not consistent with vaginal birth
- 10) Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, HELLP syndrome

Another resource with a list of higher risk conditions is the MAWs indications for transport. These are medical events or diseases that lead midwives to help you into physician care for management of your pregnancy and birth *and* the underlying condition.

<https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/maws-indications-2016.pdf>