

LABOR COACH POLICY

Mother's Name _____ **Labor Coach's Name** _____
Mother's Date of Birth _____ **Labor Coach's Contact Information** _____
Physician/Midwife _____

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center (ABSMC) encourages a good working relationship with labor coaches. A labor coach may include, but is not limited to a homebirth midwife, doula, and/or birth coach. This document helps to outline the role and function of labor coaches while they are in the Labor and Delivery Unit at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

The labor coach's role is to provide continuous physical, emotional and informational support to mothers and their partners during labor and birth.

Under the direction of the hospital privileged physicians, midwives and nurses, the labor coach offers support with comfort measures such as breathing, relaxation, movement and positioning.

The labor coach understands that the hospital privileged physicians, midwives and nurses are responsible for assessing the health and well-being of the mother and focusing on the safe delivery of the baby, and are the only ones who may diagnose and treat conditions as they arise.

The labor coach adheres to patient confidentiality in accordance to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

Labor coaches CAN NOT:

- Speak for the mother
- Interfere with medical treatment.
- Perform clinical tasks such as, but not limited to, vaginal exams, assessing fetal heart tones or perineal massage.
- Diagnose medical conditions, offer second opinions, nor offer or interpret medical advice.
- Make decisions for the patient/client nor project their own values/goals onto the pregnant or laboring woman.
- Discourage the mother from her choices, including the choice for pharmacologic pain relief.

Our signatures below indicate that we acknowledge and understand the labor coach's role. We understand that the labor coach is not an agent or employee of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. We further understand that if the labor coach does not follow this policy, she/he may not be able to continue their support of the pregnant or laboring mother while at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Labor Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Witness Name: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

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