Your Birth Preferences

Please present this birth preference sheet to your care team once you're admitted to Labor & Delivery.

Congratulations!	Important information about my pregnancy and/or my newborn's expected needs:
You're expecting — and we're honored you've chosen El Camino Health to care for you and your newborn. We'll do all we can to shape your birth experience according to your preferences, while keeping you and your newborn safe and as comfortable as possible. You can help us do that by filling out this form and sharing your preferences.	
We will always do our best to honor your wishes, while keeping your safety and health our top priority.	
Birth preferences, sometimes called a birth plan, are not a contract — you can change your mind as delivery gets closer. Make sure to talk to your doctor and your newborn's pediatrician to answer any questions or concerns.	
My OB or Nurse Midwife's name is:	

The pediatrician I have chosen is:



Scan the QR code to access a printable version of the Birth Preference Sheet.



Environment

A relaxing, nurturing environment can help you have a positive birth experience. We have ambient music available on the television in each labor room, lavender oil for aromatherapy, and other amenities to help put you at ease. You can choose who stays with you during delivery. Let us know your preferences:

- I prefer the lights in the room to be dimmed.
- I want to limit the number of guests and phone calls I have while I'm in labor by disconnecting my phone and placing a do not disturb sign on my door.
- I would like the hospital staff to help me limit visitors during labor.
- I would like to be offered essential oils.

Coping with Labor

You can choose from many options for coping with labor. We recommend being out of bed as much as possible (walking or rocking, for instance). Let us know your preferences to help with this very special time in your life.

- I prefer intermittent fetal monitoring instead of continuous monitoring, if safe for my baby.
- I would like to use a birthing ball, labor stool, peanut (an inflatable ball shaped like a peanut) or other assistance device if available.
- I would like to use heat/cold therapy.
- I would like to use a warm compress for the perineum during pushing.
- I am open to discussion with my care team on pain medication and management.
- I plan on using hydrotherapy (shower) to reduce pain in labor.
- I plan on using TENS unit for pain management
- I plan on using Nitrous Oxide for pain management.
- I plan on an epidural (a local anesthetic to help block pain below the waist) for pain management.
- I prefer not to be offered pain medication. I will ask for it if i need it.

Delivery

El Camino Health supports the golden hour family bonding by placing babies on the chest for skin-to-skin . In the second stage of labor, we provide a warm compress to decrease the risk of perineal tearing. It is not standard to cut an episiotomy, but this is done if there is a specific need to facilitate immediate delivery. A suction cup/forcep may be used to assist delivery if indicated to support a safe vaginal birth. We practice delayed cord clamping when possible. We are here to support you through the birthing process.

- I do / do not (circle one) plan to have a Doula to assist me during my labor and delivery.
- I would like to be woken up if asleep and included for the nurse shift change report, so I can talk to the nurse who will be caring for me and my newborn.
- I prefer to choose what position I will be in when I am ready to push such as semi-sitting, squatting, side lying, hands and knees, or on the back if clinically appropriate for my delivery.
- I would like a mirror available so I can see my baby being born.
- I would like to touch my baby's head as it crowns.
- I would prefer my baby to be lightly dried off before being placed on my chest.
- If possible, I would like to choose the person who will cut the baby's cord.



Infant Care

Three standard medications recommended by all pediatricians are administered in Labor & Delivery. These are:

- Hepatitis B vaccine To prevent Hepatitis B, which can occur without symptoms and lead to liver damage and liver cancer.
- Vitamin K shot To provide protection against bleeding that could occur because of low levels of vitamin K in infants.
- Antibiotic eye ointment As a preventive measure against potential risk of severe eye infection.
- I would like my infant to receive all three of these medications.
- I decline to have my infant receive:
- I would like my infant to be administered medications during golden hour to minimize perception of pain for the infant.
- I would like to have my infant circumcised.
- I plan to have my baby's cord blood collected at birth and will obtain a cord blood collection kit prior to admission. (El Camino Health does not provide cord blood collection kits.)

After Delivery

Your care team will support your decision when it comes to feeding your newborn. Should you decide to breastfeed, all our maternity nurses are trained in lactation support and will help you get started. We also have expert lactation consultants — registered nurses who are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) — to provide an extra level of support. To request to see a lactation consultant, just ask your nurse. Let us know your preferences:

How would you like to feed your infant?

- If my infant needs supplementation, I am interested in learning more about options such as donor milk.
- I would like to be present and awake when the nurse shift changes, so I can talk to the nurse who will be caring for me and my baby.
- I would like to see a social worker while in the hospital.
- If my infant must be taken to receive medical treatment, they should be accompanied by a banded adult (appointed support person will be given a band):

