

OB/GYN Interview Questionnaire

Doctor name: _____

Location: _____

Contact: _____

The Basics

- How long have you been practicing? _____
- How many births have you overseen? _____
- How many births do you oversee per month? _____
- Do you have a limit on how many patients you'll accept? _____

- How can I reach you in an emergency? _____
- Are you part of a group practice? _____
- Who will cover for you when you're unavailable? _____

- At what hospital will I give birth? _____

If you're seeing an obstetrician:

- Are you a board-certified ob-gyn? _____

If you're seeing a high-risk specialist (perinatologist):

- Are you also board certified in maternal-fetal medicine? _____

If you're seeing a family physician:

- Do you have extra training in obstetrics beyond your family medicine residency? _____

- Do you perform c-sections? _____
- If I have complications you are unable to handle, who's your backup obstetrician? _____

Philosophy

- What is your general philosophy of pregnancy care, including labor and birth? _____

- How do you see your role as a physician at my baby's birth? _____

Prenatal Care

- How much time do you allow for each prenatal visit? _____
- How long is the average wait in your office? _____
- How do you handle routine phone calls if I have questions between visits? _____

- What will be covered during prenatal visits? How will we spend our time beyond necessary physical care? (Will there be time to ask questions? Address concerns I have about my baby or myself? Talk about emotional issues? Nutrition? Other topics?) _____

- Which prenatal tests do you routinely recommend? _____

- What if I have a concern about a specific test? _____
- What kind of childbirth classes do you recommend? _____
- Will you help me develop a birth plan or review with me one that I've written? _____
- How much experience do you have with high-risk pregnancies? _____

- If my pregnancy becomes high risk, what changes might I expect in my prenatal care? Can you give me an example of when you might manage my care jointly with a perinatologist or transfer my care to another provider?

Labor and Birth

- Will you meet me at the hospital to check me when I first arrive? When I'm admitted? Sometime later? Who will be in charge of my care if you're not there? _____

- Will you stay with me throughout labor? _____
- What drug-free measures do you suggest to help me deal with labor pain? _____

- How many of your patients forgo pain relief measures? _____

- What percentage of your patients end up with epidurals? _____
- What do you think about routine continuous fetal monitoring, IVs, and other interventions? Does hospital policy require any interventions routinely? _____

- Will I have the freedom to walk around? Drink? Eat lightly if I'm so inclined? Choose whatever positions I prefer during labor and birth? _____

- Does hospital policy limit who's in the room with me for labor and birth? Are siblings welcome? Are you comfortable with this? _____

- Are you comfortable working with doulas if I decide to hire one? _____
- What percentage of your patients have episiotomies? Under what circumstances would you perform an episiotomy? _____

- What percentage of your patients have forceps- or vacuum-assisted deliveries? _____
- What percentage of your patients end up with c-sections? _____
- How do you feel about inducing labor? _____

- Is an anesthesiologist available in the hospital around the clock in case I want an epidural, want to attempt a VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean), or need an emergency c-section? _____

For family physicians:

- If you don't perform c-sections, is an obstetrician available in-house around the clock in case I want to attempt a VBAC or need an emergency c-section? _____
- Does hospital policy allow VBACs? _____

If yes:

- Do you encourage VBACs? _____
- What percentage of your patients who've had previous c-sections attempt a VBAC? _____

- What's your success rate with VBAC (60 to 80 percent is the norm)? _____

Postpartum

- Will I be separated from my baby after the birth? If so, when, why, and for how long? _____
- Can my baby room in with me if I choose this option? _____
- Can my partner stay overnight with me? _____
- Will you, or someone on the staff, provide breastfeeding support? _____

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Is the doctor's philosophy of pregnancy and birth compatible with yours?
- Did you feel comfortable with the doctor? And does she seem flexible enough to meet your needs?
- If your partner went with you to the interview, did the doctor make an effort to include both of you in the conversation?
- How long were you kept waiting?
- How helpful were the nurses and support staff at the office?

My notes:
