

Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand.

Secretary

Lyn McLean

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Dear Adele,

I had a phone call from one of the members of the Dunedin Branch of the NZ Home Birth Assoc. She said that you were either contemplating or commencing practice as a domiciliary midwife (I can't remember which), and that you wanted to know the procedure for transferring a mother into hospital. Firstly, we find that the transfer rate is around %10, and that nearly all are primips - usually the POP type of labour. In Wellington, I encourage all primips to book in at Wellington Womens Hospital for 2 reasons:-

- a) so that in the event of A/W admission or transfer, the notes are there, thus shortening and simplifying the admission and administrative procedures.
- b) In the event of admission, it means that instead of the mother being admitted under the care of the team of the day, they can go in under their GP and then the consultant of our choice be called if necessary.

At the Hutt Hospital, however, which is under the same Board, it is much more simple, and none of the above have to be done. I guess that is because they do not have a Prof. unit etc. I would imagine that your situation would be similar to mine. We manage to work the system to our advantage quite well.

I always go in with the mother and if possible I stay, though only as a friend, not as her midwife - I have no authority once she is in their clutches. I try and get the mother and baby out of hospital the next day if it has been a vaginal delivery, and about the 5th day for a caesarian section. There seems to be no hassle in claiming payment, and I usually indicate somewhere on the claim form that the mother has been transferred to hospital during labour.

There are now about 16 domiciliary midwives throughout NZ, and we have recently formed our own group. We are in the process of incorporating and formulating our own policies etc., and of course negotiation for an increase in payments is an on-going activity. We meet every 6 months and the membership subscription fee is \$10.00.

Hope all this is of some help to you and look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to write if I can be of any assistance.

Regards,