

20001-42-016

Pukemui,  
RD4,  
Kaitiaia,  
Northland.  
22.7.82

Dear Wynne,

Thanks for the informative letter,  
it sure sounds good - hope Mr Malcolm  
agrees!

Just one thing which seems  
astronomically important to me - I see at the  
end of your suggestion - "the other 17 visits  
to be done over the following 14 days at the  
midwives discretion" could you please consider  
cutting out the "17" and underline "at the  
midwives discretion". 14 days seems an  
unnecessarily long time for visiting  
particularly in view of the early discharge  
of hospital birth mothers. 14 days surely  
related to 1938 when the Medical Benefits  
Contract was drawn up. At those times ladies  
were confined to bed for 7 days & then  
remained in hospital a further 7 days.

how they are discharged - sometimes within  
hours of delivery, but usually after approx.  
5 days & may not be seen for 3p to  
2 weeks by the Public Health nurse or  
4 weeks by the Plunket - depending who  
continues the postnatal care & in what area  
they live. Could I suggest that daily  
visits be made for the first 7 days & for  
a further week if necessary (or part thereof),  
even if for 7 days only it will be alot  
more satisfactory than the postnatal  
care received by many birthmothers  
discharged from hospital.

At present I am not "honouring"  
my contact because of the mileage  
involved. I usually visit every day for 7 days  
(the birth day included) & then every second  
day for the following week. Even then  
(at 10 visits) my kilometres can exceed  
1000 km per patient & that second week has  
proved unnecessary from a postnatal  
point of view.

Also it seems that it would be  
preferable to be paid separately for the day

(or days) of labour and the delivery. So that in the case of an obstructed labour etc. that may be delivered in hospital, we are still paid for our time spent monitoring the labour.

That's all - sorry to be so long winded & I realise that these points have probably been covered, but just thought I'd make sure.

Thanks

Fae Abraham.

P.S. Just reread your letter & of course if you left out 17 then 18 would need to be changed also - "minimum of 7 and maximum of 18" - sounds a bit extreme maybe "7-14" at the midwives discretion!