

Birth Care
A Brief Pictorial Overview

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Birth Care 1978

- Birth Care opened in 1978 as the first birth center in PA and one of the first 10 in the U.S.
- Founded by a certified nurse-midwife
- Licensure available 1980
- CABC credentialing process

Who are our clients

- Farmers' wives
- Professionals
- Health care workers

Who are our clients -

- Caucasians
- Amish as a cultural subtype – 65% = 296 births/year (160 are not Amish)
- Hispanics – main group of non-English speakers – we have one midwife and one secretary fluent – one more of each “adequate”
- Blacks
- American Indians
- Asians
- Muslims – we have one muslim midwife

Where do they come from?

- PA
- DE
- MD
- NJ
- FL
- ND
- Egypt!!
- Nigeria/Scotland
- Russia

New building opened 2006



One of Two Birth Rooms



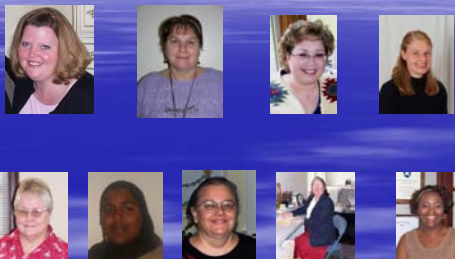
Jacuzzi's in both Birth Rooms



First Baby in Our New Building



Nurse-Midwives provide the care



Fundraisers – Dinner Gala 2006



Annual Auction – supported by the community



And now.....
On to cultural sensitivity.....

Cultural Competence

- According to Chin, Jean Lauu (2000)
- The ability to work effectively with individuals from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- The ability to understand the language, culture, and behaviors of other individuals and groups
- The ability to make appropriate recommendations

Cultural Competence

- Cultural competence exists on a continuum from incompetence to proficiency.



Cultural Sensitivity

- A necessary component of cultural competence
- Health care professionals make an effort to be aware of the potential and actual cultural factors that affect their interactions with a client

Cultural Sensitivity

- Willing to design programs and materials, to implement programs, and to make recommendations that are culturally relevant and culturally specific.

Cultural Sensitivity

- *Cultural competence cannot be achieved through short workshops or classes. A long-term commitment is required to learn a second language and become familiar with other cultures to deliver effective health care for the ethnically diverse U.S.*

Becoming Culturally Competent

- Develop awareness
- Acquire Knowledge
- Develop and Maintain Cross-Cultural Skills
- Responsibilities of the Organization

The Amish



- Are a Christian sect
- Split from the Mennonites in the 1800's over differences in application of Bible principles.

The Amish and Faith

- Believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible
- Believe in living by Faith. Faith is the reason they may not follow modern medicine.



Humility

- Humility
- Lack of Pride
- Conformity within the group
- Lack of conformity to the world as in Romans 12



The Amish and Forgiveness



Horses and buggies lined up while the Amish worship inside their home.

- Jesus taught forgiveness
- Jesus, the perfect One, forgave those who crucified Him
- The Bible teaches "forgive that ye might be forgiven"

Amish Tragedy October 2006

- Forgiveness demonstrated to the world.
- Hope in the future/ belief in eternal life.
- John 3:16 – if ye believe ye shall be born again



Funeral procession for Naomi Rose Ebersol October 2006

Amish Tragedy October 2006

- Community "togetherness"
- Gathering for support
- Meals provided and farm chores done



Amish barnraising a symbol of working together and supporting each other.

How Does Their Faith Affect Medical Care & Death?

- The elders are often consulted ... therefore traditions continue. Tradition is important... i.e. – immunizations not given.




How Does Their Faith Affect Medical Care & Death?

- The Amish do not discuss sex, pregnancy or birthing with their children, even when the baby is born at home.



Pregnancy and Delivery

- Amish women tend to seek care later in pregnancy. They feel pregnancy is a normal part of life. It will proceed as God plans.



Pregnancy and Delivery

- Testing is kept to a minimum
 - Cost. Amish mostly are self-pay
 - Testing often will not change the course of care
 - Quad screen – will not act on results – do not believe in abortion
 - Ultrasounds – they believe the baby will come when it is ready. Would not get an abortion if defects are seen



Pregnancy and Delivery


- Many, but not all, Amish prefer to deliver out of the hospital – birth center or home
 - Cost
 - Want labor to progress normally without interventions
 - Most will agree to transfer for problems
 - The ones that really do not want hospital at all costs will use a lay (unlicensed) midwife

Labor and Delivery

- It is not unusual for an Amish woman to work throughout labor, including barn work!
 - I remember “Betty”....
- The husband stays with her, children are banished from the house
- They labor in any position, in water, or on the rebounder.
- Delivery is preferred in a quiet setting


Labor and Delivery

- Breastfeeding is 100%
- Children are called to see and hold the baby and help name him/her



Post Partum

- Amish women get a six-week vacation – a good reason to have a baby every 18 months!



Post Partum

- One of the older mothers comes for the first 3 days to care for the new mother
- Frequently a young woman, a sister or cousin comes to care for the baby, and do the housework. She stays for 3 weeks.
- A housemaid continues to do cleaning and laundry until the baby is 6 weeks old

Post Partum

- Amish will not go out for the 2 or 3 day check up. House calls are essential. We offer a 2 day house call for all patients within a 30 mile radius of the birth center. Amish or not.
- Amish will hire a driver to come for a two-week and a six-week checkup.

Family Planning

- The most common method of family planning is Natural Family Planning/ Lactation Amenorrhea
- Some will use foam and condoms
- A very few will use birth control pills, diaphragms or IUC's, but among many communities they are frowned upon.
- Very few will get tubal ligations
- Even fewer times will the husband get a vasectomy

Family Planning

- Children are considered a “heritage from the Lord” and “blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them”
- Average family size among the Amish and Plain Mennonites is 6 children. Those with only 1 or 2 children – not by choice. The largest family I know of had 18. Our largest family from Birth Care was 14 children.

Faith Plays a Huge Role in All of Life – including Medical Care

- Illness and healing are in the hands of God
- Some readily accept medical care, others are reluctant.
- Although medical care may be accepted, extended life support is not. Life and death are in God’s hands.
- Newborns as well as the elderly and ill.
- Mennonites believe similarly... let me tell you about Nelson....

Death is Entry to New Life