

Improving Homebirth to Hospital Transfer: Interfacing With EMS



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“Murph” has been a paramedic for over thirtyfive years. He has worked in both rural and urban settings: He’s served as a flight paramedic in Colorado, an EMS supervisor and manager in the private ambulance sector, and as an EMS educator. He currently works as a Battalion Chief / Paramedic for West Pierce Fire & Rescue near Tacoma, Washington. He is also one of the primary partners in Murphee CME Inc., a medical education and consulting firm. He continues to serves as an *American Heart Association* Regional Faculty for both ACLS and PALS. He has had the privilege of being invited to speak at many state, national and international EMS conferences.

Bridge the Gap Between Emergency Medicine and Midwifery

Horror stories on both sides of the fence...

Goals:

- Smooth transitions
- Increase mutual understanding
- Bridge the Gap!



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Overview of EMS

Levels:

- First Responder – 40 hours total training, 1 hour childbirth
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – 120-170 hours (one semester), 4-6 hours of childbirth, labs with mannequin
- EMT Intermediate – additional 40-120 hours, mostly in advanced skills such as IVs, etc. No additional childbirth hours
- Paramedic – 1500-2600 hours total training, including 80 hours childbirth, observe on LD deck 24 hours

Childbirth training limited to just the basics

Expertise: Resuscitation + Trauma



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Countrywide EMS

- 80% volunteer
- Mostly EMTs
- Paramedics mostly located in urban areas
- Mostly don't know about midwifery

“Physician Extenders”

Operate under physician protocols



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Recommendations

- Let us know you are a care provider
- Quickly summarize problem
- Understand our limitations:
 - Laws restrict where we can transport
 - May need physician
 - We may need to take control
- Work with us to determine who is in charge
- Get to know your local EMS system
- Educate EMS about your work



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