



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES**

27705 460<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chancellor, SD 57015

Phone: 605-743-4451 Email: cpmsdlicense@gmail.com

Home Page: [doh.sd.gov/boards/midwives/](http://doh.sd.gov/boards/midwives/)

**Informed Refusal for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B Testing**

It is routine procedure to test every woman during every pregnancy for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. This is because these infections can have no symptoms and women may not know that they have been exposed. Exposure to HIV or Hepatitis B may have a negative impact on the pregnancy and newborn.

**HIV/AIDS**

**HIV infection can be treated, but not cured.** Taking anti-HIV drugs can help people with HIV infection stay healthy for a long time and can decrease the chance of passing the virus to others. **There is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection.** During pregnancy, HIV can pass through the placenta and infect the baby. During labor and delivery, the baby may be exposed to the virus in the mother’s blood and other fluids. When a woman goes into labor and her water breaks the risk of transmitting HIV to the baby increases. Most babies who get HIV from their mothers become infected around the time of delivery. Breastfeeding also can transmit the virus to the baby.

**Hepatitis B**

Babies born to a mother with hepatitis B have a greater than 90% chance of developing chronic hepatitis B if they are not properly treated at birth. It is imperative for pregnant women to know their hepatitis B status in order to prevent passing the virus on to their newborn baby during delivery. If your midwife is aware that you have hepatitis B, he or she can make arrangements to have the proper medications to prevent your baby from being infected. Testing is especially important for women who fall into high-risk groups such as health care workers, women from ethnic communities where hepatitis B is common, spouses or partners living with an infected person. If you are pregnant, be sure you are tested for hepatitis B before your baby is born, ideally as early as possible during the first trimester.

I have read and understand the information presented above. I understand that a HIV or Hepatitis B infection is potentially disabling and/or fatal for my baby. I realize that professional organizations including the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Hepatitis B Foundation, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all recommend HIV and Hepatitis B testing for every pregnancy.

After careful consideration of the potential benefits and risks concerning HIV and Hepatitis B testing I am refusing to have blood testing done for HIV and/or Hepatitis B (please indicate if you are refusing only one test by circling the one you are refusing and crossing off the other.)

My reason(s) for refusing is (are):

---

---

---

Client signature

Witness signature

---

---

Date

Date