

Interview Questions to ask the Midwife

Professional questions:

Are you currently certified as a midwife and by what organization?

Are you licensed by the state?

Do you keep statistics of your births and what happens at each one?

What life saving measures are you currently certified in?

Neonatal resuscitation?

CPR?

Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)?

Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)?

Are you a member of your state midwives organization?

Do you participate in formal peer review with other midwives?

Have you ever been named in a law suit? Please explain.

How many hours of continuing education do you complete each year?

How many continuing education hours are required to keep your license or certification?

Questions about how a midwife practices:

How many births have you attended?

How many internal checks do you normally perform?

Do you have a problem using a fetalscope instead of Doppler most of the time?

If you are sick or otherwise unavailable during my labor, who will attend to me?

How many assistants do you normally bring to the birth?

Who are your usual assistants?

What is your hospital transfer rate (or, how many times have you had to go if it's low)?

Interview Questions to ask the Midwife

Does your rate include transfers that occur during labor, or all transfers, including conditions that develop before labor? If it includes all of them, do you know a breakdown of before labor/during labor transfers (just trying to get a feel for how many moms transfer during labor)?

What is your typical transfer, one that requires intervention, or one where the mom desires it?

What is your c-section rate?

What hospitals have you transferred to? What is your favorite hospital to transfer to?

How are you treated when you transfer a client to the hospital?

Do you stay with me after the transfer and offer support for my decisions the best you can?

How familiar are you with procedures in the hospital?

If I develop a condition that makes me high risk, do you have a doctor you normally use to transfer my care to? Do you also try to use this doctor for transfers during labor?

What is your cut-off for considering a baby to be premature and requiring a hospital birth?

What happens if I go past 42 weeks?

What conditions make me high risk ? How would you treat these conditions before they make me high risk?

At what point would placenta previa make me high risk?

What are your normal guidelines for weight gain, or do you just stress good nutrition?

Do you deliver breech babies? What do you try to turn a breech baby?

How long are you willing to wait for a baby in a bad position to change positions before labelling the pregnancy high risk?

What percentage of your clients tear?

How do you work to prevent tearing?

How many 3rd or 4th degree tears have you had? Up to what degree do you suture? How many episiotomies have you performed?

How long are you willing to let a client push, or do you base it solely on the baby's stress level?

Interview Questions to ask the Midwife

Are you willing to use alternative protocols for Strep B such as grapefruit seed extract?

Do you have a protocol to help prevent me from being positive for Strep B?

Do you have a problem waiting for a while after the placenta is delivered to cut the cord?

What do you use to stop excessive bleeding after delivery?

Have you had any experience with shoulder dystocia?

Have you had experience with cord prolapse?

Do you have any special things you do after a birth such as an herbal bath?

During labor, how active are you in checking the client, etc?

If my water breaks before labor starts, how long will you wait before trying to start labor, or transfer to the hospital?

What equipment do you normally bring to the birth (birthing stool? blow-up pool? oxygen? ambu-bag? pitocin shot?)

Under what conditions would you artificially rupture the amniotic sac?

Do you do the required newborn screening bloodtests, or will I need to see a doctor for this?

What happens with your fee if I have to transfer out of your care?

Do you file with insurance? Have you had any experience filing with _____?

Do you require that I take a childbirth education class?

Have you had any bad outcomes for the baby or the mother? Please explain them.

Have you had any women or their families dissatisfied with their care? Please explain. How did you handle this?

What do you normally do while I am in labor?

These questions have been taken from conversations with women, their families, and other midwives.

Hopefully the answers you receive when asking them will provide you with insight into the midwife's philosophy, personality, and professionalism.