

TERMINOLOGY LIST

APGAR:	the rating done within minutes of birth on the baby ranges from 1-10 and evaluates heartbeat, respiration, muscle tone, color, and reflexes.
Alternate Birth-ing Room	a labor room which has been adopted with some special equipment so that delivery can occur there.
Amniotic Fluid	fluid surrounding the fetus, purpose is to provide freedom of movement, constant temperature.
Amniocentesis	withdrawal of amniotic fluid (via needle inserted through the abdominal wall and the uterine wall) for study, in early pregnancy, to study the chromosomes for genetic error: in later pregnancy, to determine fetal age.
Afterpains	the contractions made by the uterus after expulsion of the placenta, as it seeks to return to normal size. At times more noticed by nursing mothers as suckling of the infant triggers uterine contractions
Birth Chair	a specially molded chair with electrical controls to change its height and position in which the mother can sit to give birth.
Catheter	tube inserted into the bladder (done before surgery and may remain for a few day) to empty the bladder while surgery in progress (large, full bladder is on the way). Left in since many people experience temporary inability to spontaneously empty bladder as anesthesia after effect.
Cardiac Monitor	machine which records heart function during surgery, used on all major surgery patients.
Cervix	the muscle at the lower end of the uterus leading to the vagina (birth canal) which effaces (shortens) and dilates (opens) during labor to allow passage of the fetus out of uterus into vagina.
EDC	expected date of confinement or due date. Add 7 days to beginning date of the last menstrual period and go back 3 months. Not exact – 1 to 3 weeks prior to or after due date is considered normal. Cesarean birth is usually scheduled 1 week early to avoid chance of labor.
Episiotomy	incision in to perineum and vagina to enlarge the vaginal opening to permit delivery of infant
Fetal Monitor	a machine which records the frequency and strength of uterine contractions and the fetal heart rate by means of 2 devices which are attached to the mother's abdomen.
Incisions	classical – vertical incision in uterus Low segment – horizontal incision in uterus