

## *North Carolina Women's Hospital*

# **Videotaping & Still Photography in Labor & Delivery**

The NC Women's Hospital and its staff are delighted to be part of the birth of your baby. Because the birth of a baby is a special time that many people like to record with pictures and video, we want you to be aware of the following information on the UNC Hospital policies regarding photography.

### **May we take pictures during labor and delivery?**

You may take pictures before and after the birth of your baby. If you wish to have pictures or video of the events surrounding the birth of your baby, we encourage you to arrange for one of your support persons to bring a camera or cameras and be in charge of picture taking. It is a good idea to discuss ahead of time which pictures you would like taken and which ones you would not. Here are some important points for successful recording of these events:

- ◆ Bring extra film, digital cards and batteries so you get all the pictures you want.
- ◆ Cameras must be battery operated – electrical cords are a safety hazard.
- ◆ You cannot use a tripod in Labor & Delivery.
- ◆ Phone cameras must be turned off at all times in Labor & Delivery because their signal can interfere with monitoring of patients anywhere in the unit.
- ◆ Please ask staff before including them in your photos and respect their decision if they do not wish to be in a picture.
- ◆ Ask your support person to take only pictures you will want to have – nothing that will be embarrassing later.

### **Are there times when we cannot take pictures?**

For numerous reasons, including patient safety and infection control, UNC Hospitals does not allow direct filming of medical procedures. This means that no photography is allowed during the following times in Labor and Delivery:

- ◆ During medical procedures in labor, such as placement of an epidural or checking of the cervix
- ◆ At the actual moment of the vaginal or cesarean birth, regardless of whether the birth occurs in a labor and delivery room or in an operating room; for additional patient safety reasons, no cameras are allowed in the operating rooms at UNC Hospitals
- ◆ During medical procedures on the newborn – ask the care providers when you may turn on your camera to take the first picture of your new family member

- ◆ If the staff becomes very busy because of a problem, please turn off your cameras and follow any directions given by the medical team as they work; they will let you know when it is safe to continue taking pictures

After a cesarean birth, the mother will be taken to a recovery room where you may take pictures after your nurse or physician says it is safe. There may be another patient in the recovery room at the same time, and you are asked to respect the privacy of the other patient.

Once mother and baby have been moved to the Maternity Care Center, you are free to take pictures of your new little one in your room at any time. If your baby should go to Newborn Critical Care, you may also take pictures there.

If you have any questions about photography and our policies, talk with your physician or midwife. Again, we are pleased to share this important event with you.

*Approved by NC Women's Hospital Patient Education Steering Committee October 26, 2004.*