



CIMS
COALITION FOR IMPROVING
MATERNITY SERVICES

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March 25, 2009

Angela Watson
ICAN of Northwest Arkansas
3900 Morning Mist Dr
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Dear Angela and the ICAN Chapter of Northwest Arkansas,

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) salutes you for advocating for women's right to plan a VBAC. Hospitals and physicians who refuse women the option for VBAC are putting women and babies at increased health risks.

Compared with a planned vaginal birth, mothers who have a repeat cesarean are at increased risk for maternal infection, adhesions, intestinal obstruction, chronic pain, cesarean scar, ectopic pregnancy, and placental problems. Placental problems from accumulating cesareans increase the risk for hemorrhage severe enough to require a blood transfusion. For the baby, a scheduled cesarean increases the risk for serious preterm birth and neonatal respiratory problems, sometimes requiring intensive care. A cesarean delivery also makes it more difficult to establish and continue breastfeeding.

Thank you for letting us know about the barriers in Northwest Arkansas for women wishing to birth vaginally after cesarean section. We want to extend our heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to all the women and families who are working so tirelessly to preserve this important option for the women of this region. On behalf of CIMS and all of the women who will make childbirth decisions based on evidence, body wisdom, and their own personal choice, we thank you.

Happy Cesarean Awareness Month from all of us here at CIMS!

Sincerely,

Nicette Jukelevics, MA, ICCE
On behalf of the CIMS Leadership Team

Enclosed: The Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative

Making Mother-Friendly Care A Reality

CIMS is a not-for-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Our mission is to promote a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs.