

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Births in Ambulances

For obvious reasons, all practical steps should be taken to avoid births taking place in ambulances. When you are called to a maternity case and the woman is not having her first baby, you should make tactful enquiries as to whether the mother is likely to have her baby before hospital is reached. Your enquiries must be made in such a way that you do not cause unnecessary alarm to the mother. You are permitted to ask the woman, very tactfully of course, how often the pains are recurring. If they are more frequent than one pain in every seven minutes, there is a risk that the baby will be born in the ambulance. Also without letting the woman know that you are studying her face, note whether she is relaxed and still able to smile. If she is not relaxed, there is a fair chance that labour is advanced so far that the birth is imminent.

If you think there is any chance of a baby being born in an ambulance, you must telephone for a midwife who will accompany the mother to hospital.

If you take a midwife as an escort to the hospital, you must ensure that as a matter of priority she is returned home.

C. M. Smith

County Medical Officer of Health.

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