

Outline for Discussion of Care Plan with Publisher

(and if possible, her husband)

Upon learning that a publisher in the congregation is pregnant, the body of elders should assign two elders to meet with the sister and husband (if possible). After printing two copies of the *Care Plan* document, and single copies of *Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies*, and *Instructions for use of Care Plan*, please use this outline to discuss with the publisher and her husband how to use the Care Plan.

1. Read the first paragraph of the *Care Plan* together. Then explain the following:
 - a. The *Care Plan* is designed specifically with medical staff in mind and may not be easy to understand unless one has a medical background. However, although the sister may not understand the details of the document, it can be of great assistance to the medical staff in case of emergency.
 - b. The second sentence uses the word “autologous”. This word means having to do with one’s own body.
 - c. How does the sister feel about blood salvage procedure? Does she know what it involves? Is it available at the local hospital? If she is not sure, she should ask her doctor at the next visit to the doctor.
 - d. How does the sister feel about plasma-derived products, some of which are mentioned in the *Care Plan*? These plasma-derived products include blood fractions, and therefore are a matter of personal decision.
 - e. Insure that the sister has a properly filled out *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* (DPA) form.
2. The **Risk Management** section tells the medical staff that because of your stand on blood, they should consider you to be a higher-risk patient when it comes to medical situations involving blood loss. This should encourage them to plan ahead and be ready to handle any situation that may involve blood loss.
3. Active haemorrhage refers to a current, continuous “loss of blood”. Therefore, the second section, **Management of active haemorrhage** deals with various ways that the medical staff can slow or stop bleeding that may occur during pregnancy or childbirth.
4. Postpartum anaemia refers to a common condition that occurs in women after giving birth that involves having a low amount of blood. The third section, **Management of postpartum anaemia** provides some suggestions for handling this situation.
5. You may need to coach the sister and her husband on how to present the doctor with the *Care Plan*.
 - a. If she senses that the doctor will not be cooperative to her stand on blood, the sister should inform the elders of this right away. In such a situation, the elders should contact the HLC to report the situation and to locate a cooperative doctor.

6. Encourage the sister to follow the guidelines recommended in the article “Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies” (*Awake!* November 2009).

After your discussion with the sister and her husband, they will no doubt be better prepared to obtain good medical care and also uphold Jehovah’s law during this happy time of their lives. In addition, we recommend assigning an elder to periodically check with the sister that all is well and that she has followed through with the various aspects of using the Care Plan.