

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
U. S. Naval Hospital Okinawa
TYPHOON INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSTETRIC PATIENTS

The typhoon season is from June through November. During a typhoon, it may be extremely difficult and dangerous for you to travel to the hospital if labor begins. We have developed a plan to be sure you have safe access to medical care in the event of a typhoon. Please review this plan and discuss any questions with your provider. Please keep this information in a convenient place so you may refer to it in the event of a typhoon.

Please familiarize yourself with the established Typhoon Conditions (they are also listed in the phone book):

- **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1 (TC-1)**
- **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Caution (TC-1C)**
- **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Emergency (TC-1E)**
- **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Recovery (TC-1R)**
- **Tropical Cyclone Condition Storm Watch (TC-SW)**
- **Tropical Cyclone Condition All Clear (TC-AC)**

When **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Caution (TC-1C)** is announced, all hospital routine business stops and preparations are made for the typhoon. The OB-GYN Clinic staff will be focused on clinic preparations when **TC-1C** is announced, and we will not be able to call you individually to inform you of storm conditions. Storm Conditions are announced on Armed Forces radio, and are continuously posted on AFN television. Please watch and listen for changes!

If you have a clinic appointment scheduled when **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1 (TC-1)** is announced, please be aware that clinic routine will continue, and you will be seen as scheduled, until **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Caution (TC-1C)** is announced. Once **TC-1C** is announced, all remaining appointments will be cancelled and re-scheduled. You may not be called until after the typhoon, however, because frequently numerous appointments need to be re-scheduled. Please be patient – we will call you to re-schedule if we have cancelled your appointment!

If you are within three weeks of your due date when **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Caution (TC-1C)** is announced, we strongly urge you to come to the Naval Hospital and report to the Quarter Deck at the Main Hospital Entrance. Please be aware that if you have medical complications of your pregnancy, your provider may urge you to come to the hospital even if you are not within 2 weeks of your due date. Please **DO NOT** come to the hospital before **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Caution (TC-1C)** is announced.

When you check in at the Quarter Deck, you will be given information on where OB berthing facilities are located. You will not be admitted into the hospital. *Should you need medical attention at any time during the typhoon, please go to Labor & Delivery for assistance.*

When **Tropical Cyclone Condition 1-Emergency (TC-1E)** is set, all outside activity is prohibited. If you have chosen to remain home during the typhoon and you experience a medical emergency, please call 911. Be aware that emergency transportation during a typhoon will not be in a regular ambulance, but in a heavy tactical truck or in a humvee. It may be very

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dangerous, and it may be quite difficult for the drivers to find your house if you live off base – *transportation to the hospital may be very delayed, or even impossible*. For your safety and that of the transportation crew, **we urge you to come in to the hospital for shelter before TC-1E if you are within 3 weeks of your due date!**

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING WHEN MAKING YOUR PLANS:

- OB berthing is provided for your safety – but it may be crowded and uncomfortable. As many as 50 pregnant women may be seeking storm shelter at the Naval Hospital.
- OB berthing will be on cots in large community rooms. There are no TVs in these rooms. TVs are available in other hospital spaces, however.
- Privacy may be a large concern. Limited bathroom facilities will be nearby. Shower facilities may not be readily available.
- You may bring family members with you, but we discourage this due to privacy concerns and limited space. If you bring children, you must also bring another adult who will care for your children in the event you go into labor. We regret that childcare will not be available.
- The Dining Room will be available for you to purchase meals. The Snack Bar will be closed. Vending machines will not be re-stocked.
- Public phones are available on the first floor near the dining room and on the south end of each floor near the elevators.
- Our hospital has a Chapel located on the second floor near the snack bar area. Services are held as conditions permit during the typhoon. Please consult the Chapel for more information.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH YOU:

- Any medications (Prenatal Vitamins, etc.)
- Loose change for vending machines and approximately \$25.00 for meals – more if any family members accompany you. Do not bring large amounts of money or any valuables with you.
- Snacks, drinks, etc.
- Books, games, handicrafts, etc. Please bring a book light if you have one!
- Your hospital bag and/or “Goodie Bag” for labor.
- Toiletries, towel, change of clothes, small flashlight.
- Pillow and sleeping bag or blankets.
- Radio, cassette or CD player – **be sure to bring headphones!**