VAGINAL BIRTH AFTER CESAREAN SECTION (VBAC)

Policy:

VCHCP will not preauthorize a VBAC.

Background:

The following recommendations are based on good and consistent scientific evidence:

- Most women with one previous cesarean delivery with a low-transverse incision are candidates for vaginal birth after cesarean delivery (VBAC) and should be counseled about VBAC and offered a trial of labor.

- Epidural anesthesia may be used for VBAC.

The following recommendations are based on limited or inconsistent scientific evidence:

- Women with a vertical incision within the lower uterine segment that does not extend into the fundus are candidates for VBAC.

- The use of prostaglandins for cervical ripening or induction of labor in most women with a previous cesarean delivery should be discouraged.

The following recommendations are based primarily on consensus and expert opinion:

- Because uterine rupture may be catastrophic, VBAC should be attempted only in institutions equipped to respond to emergencies with physicians immediately available to provide emergency care. In particular, the institution must have anesthesia, operating room with staff, and obstetrician available 24 hours in house.

Presently no Participating Hospitals in the Plan’s service area (Ventura County) provide this 24-hour immediate surgical availability. Therefore, VCHCP will not preauthorize a VBAC.

A. Attachments: None

B. History:

Reviewers: Reviewed/Revised by:
Fred Kelley, MD & Cynthia Wilhelmy, MD; Date: August 2005
Committee Review: UM Committee on 10/24/05 & QA on 8/23/05 and 11/15/05
Reviewed/Revised by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 11/7/11
Committee Review: UM on 11/10/11; QAC on 11/22/11
Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 4/17/12
Committee Reviews: UM on 5/10/12 & QA on 5/22/12
Reviewed/No changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 1/28/13
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Reviewed/No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD
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Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD
Medical Policy: Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Section (VBAC)

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Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Catherine Sanders, MD
Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD
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Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD
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