**Ten Minute Halacha - When a Woman Goes Into Labor on Shabbos**

Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz

1)Bottom line halacha

A person must plan ahead to minimize the chilul shabbos.

So its better to pre register, and hospitals prefer pre registration . If necessary to sign something, better to sign with shinui, e.g.with the left hand( for a righty).

2)So when they ask you questions and they write, if the attending nurse is a gentile, then np bec its not you telling them to write, rather they’re doing it for themselves. ( אדעתא דנפשיה קעביד )

However if jewish, then best not to, but if its relevant medical info , then ok bec its part of pikuach nefesh .

3)To get to the hospital, if walking distance, that’s obviously better.However this is usually impractical , but if possible, it’s preferable .

4)Rav Schachter- she must spend shabbos in the vicinity of the hospital.However, most poskim disagree . Some say in the 4th week of 9th month she should , but some say she has no need to assume that she’s going to give birth on shabbos ( 6 of 7 chance )

5)Car or cab – every hit of the gas pedal is a Torah prohibition. Every hit of brake is at least derabanan ,possibly deorayta, so better amira leakum( to have a gentile drive if possible (without delaying too much).

6)Paying- better to find out price and set aside $ in advance and have gentile open all doors

Prepare $ in envelope.( In 5 towns Hatzala organizes payment and lays it out.)

Obviously you cannot take change.

7)If cannot take cab, drive because she is a choleh with sakana. But minimize what you bring. E.g. bring license registration , insurance but not other things because you’re bringing it out of techum.

8)Hospital bag- Minchas Yitzchak-8-30-1 says suitcase can be taken through gentile.

Others say don’t take anything unnecessary and wait until after shabbos for all peripherals .only bare necessities .

Siddur, talis etc. food is all ok

Women In labor can have others accompany her if she feels it’s necessary, e.g. husband , mother.

Children- best to arrange babysitting. If not you can bring them and drop them somewhere, even if drop off is out of the way

9) False labor –they send her home on Shabbos. if she can walk home, walk .

If close to end of shabbos , stay

If early e.g. fri nite , most poskim say she can go home with gentile.

 Some say husband must stay but Rav Shlomo Zalman Aurbach says go with her because she may need him .

10) Overall majority of poskim say don’t minimize melacha in going to hospital but drive normally( don’t hit gas and breaks less) because of safety.

You can go to a further hospital if she will receive better care or her dr. is there, but all things being equal, go to closer hospital even if closer hospital is more expensive.

Try to turn on car with shinui. Once you get to hospital now pikuach nefesh is a non issue, so best to wait until someone walks through electric doors before walking in. What about car running? You ll get ticketed or towed. But chilul shabbos! So try valet, even though more expensive, or ask gentile to park, and you definately cannot turn off your car.

11) Lady goes into labor- the lowest level of chilul shabbos is call dr- only derabanan. And may be false labor etc. and you wont need to be mechalel shabbos –

 once you call dr hanging up phone is a problem. Unless you ll need to call dr again.

12) She is a choleh sheyesh bo sakana from when water breaks. Or from 3 centimeters dilated or on birthing table and from here on any melacha can be done