TRANSCULTURAL ASPECTS OF PERINATAL HEALTH CARE: A RESOURCE GUIDE

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW: This project has been spearheaded by The National Perinatal Association (NPA) and produced with the support of the American Academy of Pediatrics (2004 – 2009). Its purpose is to raise the consciousness of health care providers regarding the potential impact of culture and religion on the health and well-being of mothers, babies, and families. NPA is working to produce a 3rd edition of this manual.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Individual chapters should include:
· Two hard copies (double-spaced) plus an identical version on disk in Word Perfect or Rich Text Format; limit of 20 pages (8 ½ “ X 11”)  
· A cover sheet with full name(s) and credentials of all contributors and contact information, including address, telephone/fax number, e-mail address  
· Citation of all referenced material using arabic numbers in parentheses consecutively throughout text that correspond to a separate reference list at end  
· A transfer of copyright to NPA signed by all contributors attesting to the accuracy and originality of material presented

CONTACT INFORMATION: For assistance or queries contact Cristina Glick: crisglick@comcast.net or Sharon Chesna: schesna@mothersandbabies.org.

SUGGESTED FORMAT: Please organize your presentation according to the following template (if you are unable to provide information for each and every category, you may delete those that are not appropriate; please be sure to footnote your material, using the style showed in the model chapter).

Begin with a general introduction that provides an overview of the culture, including some demographic and geographic information about the particular cultural / religious group. Please address:

HEALTH AND ILLNESS
· Address traditional medical practices: with / without conventional medicine

PREGNANCY / PRENATAL CARE

LABOR AND BIRTH

POSTPARTUM AND NEWBORN CARE

DEATH / BURIAL RITES

EVERY ________________________________ WOMAN IS DIFFERENT

PERINATAL HEALTH CARE OF ________________________________ WOMEN: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

(Provide bulleted information using the categories provided below to summarize the preceding narrative; do not be limited by the suggested content):

Psychosocial / Spiritual Characteristics
· Communications
  · language keys
  · body language
  · tone of voice / loudness
  · eye contact / touching
· Relationships with male health professionals
  · does another female need to be in the room?
  · does the client expect a female attendant only?
· Spiritualism
  · talismans
  · availability of spiritual leader
Prenatal Care

Prenatal Testing

Pregnancy Diet
- hot and cold as related to health
- sources of protein, vitamins and minerals

Pregnancy-Related Beliefs / Taboos

Labor & Delivery
- analgesia / anesthesia
- positioning
- site choices
- ambulation
- eating / drinking
- use of doulas / support persons

Postpartum Care

Postpartum Diet (see Pregnancy Diet)

Neonatal Care
- circumcision / naming
- religious practices / traditions
- breastfeeding / bottle feeding
- swaddling / sleeping with mother

Breastfeeding / Breast Care

Family Involvement
- Relationship of husband/father in health setting
decision-making
availability / presence
Relationships with family members
presence of other children at birth
presence / participation of family in early infant care

Pregnancy Termination / Miscarriage
- miscarriage / fetal demise / infant death

Death / Burial Rites
- mourning customs

FREQUENTLY Eaten FOOD CHOICES (OPTIONAL)
(Use a table format to illustrate)

REFERENCES
(Arrange in numeric order as they appear in text)

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING (OPTIONAL)