



Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

Call for Stories:

Challenges with Care During Labor and Delivery

Symposium Editors Mary Politi, PhD and Emily Jungheim, MD, MSCI

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from parents who have experienced challenges with care during labor and delivery. In the United States alone, there are close to 4,000,000 births each year. Several factors during labor and delivery can significantly impact the birth experience and leave a lasting impact on of the childbearing woman (and her partner, when present). Factors could include where parents choose to birth, whether research is conducted at a site, the quality of health insurance, pain control, unexpected complications, health problems of the baby, competence of the staff or doula, and many other factors.

We want true, personal stories in a form that is interesting and easy to read. **Please share this invitation and guide sheet with appropriate individuals.**

In writing your story, please consider these questions:

- What role did you play in making decisions about the type of birth, pain management, or any unexpected events before or during delivery?
- Did you feel your health care providers did enough to prepare you for the birthing experience and potential challenges of labor and delivery?
- What about your experience was positive? What was negative?
- What could have been done differently to improve your experience?
- What would you like other women to know as they prepare for potential challenges in labor and delivery?
- What would you want to share with health care providers who work with women during labor and delivery?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write on the issues that you think are most important to share with others. If you are not a writer, tell your story in your own words and our editorial staff will help you.

If you are interested in submitting a story, we ask you **first to submit a 300-word proposal**—a short description of the story you want to tell. **Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email: narrativebioethics@gmail.com. We will give preference to story proposals received by March 21, 2017.**

We plan to publish 12 stories (4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words) on this topic. Some additional stories may be published as online-only supplemental material. We also publish 2 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium you may access *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* Volume 3.1 for free on [Project MUSE](#).

For more information about the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, the guidelines for authors, and privacy policies, visit our webpage at: <http://www.nibjournal.org/authors/guidelines.html>

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