



IMA Public Health Committee  
 Reproductive Health Subcommittee

## Pregnancy Complications with Risk of Maternal Death and Impairment

Due to the significant risk of sudden onset of complications that could result in serious compromise of maternal health or death, termination of pregnancy prior to fetal viability is within the standard of care for all the disorders listed below. When any associated complications are detected, termination of pregnancy is indicated to prevent severe maternal impairment and death.

In general, the earlier in pregnancy that one of these conditions develops, the higher the probability of severe maternal or fetal morbidity and/or mortality. Waiting until complications arise greatly increases the risk of maternal death/injury and does not guarantee the fetus will survive to delivery or childhood. If the pregnant patient dies prior to fetal viability, there is no possible way for the fetus to survive; thus, the pregnancy will result in a fetal demise at the time of her death.

**The following is not a comprehensive list.** This list provides examples of very specific pregnancy disorders and possible complications. Many others exist and will vary by patient.

<b><i>Class of Disorders</i></b>	<b><i>Specific Disorders</i></b>	<b><i>Complications</i></b>
<b>Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy</b>	Pre-eclampsia, Eclampsia, HELLP Syndrome, Mirror Syndrome	Seizures, hemorrhagic cerebrovascular accident, acute kidney injury, chronic renal insufficiency, renal failure, hepatic hematoma, hepatic capsular rupture, hemorrhage, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hemorrhagic shock, encephalopathy, visual impairment, venous thromboembolism, infertility, death.
<b>Threatened Spontaneous Abortion</b>	Vaginal bleeding, Preterm Labor, Cervical Insufficiency, Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes	Hemorrhage, previable spontaneous delivery, chorioamnionitis, septic/hemorrhagic shock, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hysterectomy/infertility, venous thromboembolism, end organ damage, limb amputation, death.

<b>Placental Abruption</b>	Marginal Abruption, Chronic Abruption, Partial Abruption	Hemorrhage, previable spontaneous delivery, septic/hemorrhagic shock, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hysterectomy/infertility, venous thromboembolism, end organ damage, death.
<b>Uterine Rupture</b>	Spontaneous (Prior Uterine Surgery), Traumatic (Blunt or Penetrative Injury)	Hemorrhage, previable spontaneous delivery, chorioamnionitis, sepsis, septic/hemorrhagic shock, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hysterectomy, end organ damage, death.
<b>Abnormal Placentation</b>	Previa, Accreta, Increta, Percreta	Hemorrhage, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hemorrhagic shock, infertility, death
<b>Venous Thromboembolism</b>	Deep Venous Thrombosis, Pulmonary Embolism, Embolic Cerebrovascular Accident	Limb injury, loss of limb, pulmonary infarct, cerebral infarct, death