

# Appendix A. Stakeholder Invitation 1

## Sample Stakeholder Invitation Letter

Dear [Stakeholder],

The Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) was commissioned by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop a national research agenda in the area of Vaginal Birth after Cesarean (VBAC). We are particularly interested in identifying topics stakeholders struggle with in clinical decisionmaking and health policy. **You have been nominated as a stakeholder with an interest in this area and we would like to invite you to participate in this forum.**

This project builds on the Oregon EPC's 2010 evidence report on Vaginal Birth after Cesarean, which provided the evidence base for the NIH consensus conference on VBAC. Although the 2010 report identified pertinent research gaps related to clinical outcomes for mother and infant, we know little about the contextual and health care delivery system factors that influence decisionmaking about VBAC and repeat cesarean. In phase 1 of the project, we will conduct a series of interviews with key stakeholders - including medical liability and insurance company representatives, hospital administrators, consumer advocates, clinicians, patients and others – in order to brainstorm the range of nonmedical factors that might be influencing policy and practice on VBAC. **Your involvement would include participation in a 30-45 minute telephone interview, at a time that is convenient for you, in May 2011.**

In phase 2 of the project we will assemble a panel of 9-10 stakeholders to prioritize the range of identified future research needs – including both the health care delivery system research needs identified in phase 1 and the maternal and infant health outcome research needs identified in the 2010 evidence report. **Stakeholders will be asked to complete 1-3 rounds of a web-based survey to prioritize the list of future research needs, in June 2011.**

I sincerely hope you will be able to participate in this important work. The results of this project will be invaluable to setting the research agenda, and ultimately to improving policy and practice, in the area of VBAC. **We are hoping to set up interviews quickly, so would appreciate confirmation of participation by May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at cottrelle@ohsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Erika Cottrell, PhD, MPP  
Principal Investigator  
Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center  
Oregon Health & Science University