Pregnancy until Childbirth

When a woman was known to be pregnant her condition was kept secret, for fear of those who might by sorcery cause the death of mother and child.

(Obtain tabunnea: - It wanna
It wanna)

The remains of all her food were kept and everything that touched her body.
When it was plain to all that she was pregnant a piece of land was prepared for her on the ocean beach. To this she was taken and the "Emeao", or cutting of the mao-scrub, took place. She was given to wear a girdle of the bark of the Kanawa tree twisted into strands. This was when she was in her sixth month.

(Obtainvicentration of Emeao and maraunai)

When time of delivery arrived a midwife came to prepare her with tabunnea.

(Obtain tabunnea of the Tobi)

And when she was in labour she sat before another woman called the deliverer (ta'katoka)

(Obtain tabunnea)
If the delivery was long or painful she was
given to drink a magic potion by a third
(Obtain particulars and charm)
own who awaited such an event.

When child was born, it remained
3 days in the house of its birth, and was
said to "complete its days in the House of
Souls", the chief spirit to appease being
Niit Nibon of the hongin. (Obtain spells)

After 3 days the child was taken to
another house and was said to "enter the
House of man." Its mats and coverings
were all changed for new.

The child was welcomed by a feast
of the clan, and a dance in which its
luck was intoned.

The nursing mother was forbidden to
walk in the sun, as it was considered
cud for the milk. When, rarely, she went
out she covered her head with a mat and
her breasts with a riri. Only two foods
were allowed her — Karmorna and fish.
Of all fish the beach-crab was said to give
the richest milk. She would have no
sexual connection for a year.
The midwife cut the cord.
The child was named by
mother & father. This was a
matter of mere arrangement. A
name was chosen from among the
ancestors of man or woman.
When the fragment of umbilical cord falls from child's navel it is carefully preserved in an uri leaf until the child is old enough to walk. The leaf is then put in child's hand and it is told to throw it into sea. If child throws it far out, it will be a great voyage.

Child's stool is preserved in leaf and burned in a hole far from any fire. The belief is that if it is burned the child will become a leper.