

Reference Number: UHBOBS025 Version Number: 3	Date of Next Review: Previous Trust/LHB Reference Number:
--	--

Cancellation / Delay of Elective Caesarean Section and Induction of Labour

Objectives

To provide guidance on the management of patients in the event of cancellation of Caesarean section or Induction of Labour

Scope

This policy applies to all healthcare professionals in all locations including those with honorary contracts

Equality Health Impact Assessment

An Equality Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) has not been completed.

Documents to read alongside this Procedure

Approved by

Maternity Professional Forum and Obstetrics & Gynaecology Quality & Safety

Accountable Executive or Clinical Board Director

Ruth Walker, Executive Nurse Director

Author(s)

S Zaher, Consultant Obstetrician and Labour Ward Lead

Disclaimer

If the review date of this document has passed please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author Or the [Governance Directorate](#).

Summary of reviews/amendments

Version Number	Date of Review Approved	Date Published	Summary of Amendments
1	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	New Document (P Amin)
2	Oct 2014	Oct 2014	Reviewed and amended by P Amin
3	MPF 15/7/19 Q&S 6/9/19	09/09/2019	Reviewed and amended by Su Zaher, Labour Ward Lead

Document Title: <i>Cancellation / Delay of ELCS / IOL</i>	2 of 5	Approval Date: 06/09/2019
Reference Number: UHBOBS025		Next Review Date: 06/09/2022
Version Number: 3		Date of Publication: 09/09/2019
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum and O&G Quality & Safety		

There are circumstances, where an Elective Caesarean Section (C/S) or Induction of Labour (IOL) may need to be delayed (to a later time on the same day) or postponed (re-scheduled for another day). It is expected in these circumstances that every effort is made to avoid postponement and that all options are considered before this decision is made.

If a caesarean section or IOL is delayed then it is the responsibility of the Consultant on the Delivery Suite to ensure that the reasons for the delay are communicated with the woman and her family in a timely manner, either by themselves or delegated to a relevant member of staff.

The decision to postpone a caesarean section or IOL has to be made by the Consultant in conjunction with the Consultant Anaesthetist (for C/S) and Delivery Suite Co-ordinator, as appropriate.

Actions to follow when the decision has been made to postpone a caesarean section / IOL:

Caesarean Section:

Role of the Consultant Obstetrician:

- The Consultant / Senior Registrar must ensure the reason for delay or postponement or cancellation of the operation is communicated to the woman. If the operation is postponed, the Consultant / Senior Registrar must see the woman face-to-face and inform her of the decision to postpone her operation and explain the reasons why this decision has been made.
- All communication must be clearly documented in the case notes.
- An individualised care plan for the woman must be made and documented in the notes e.g. IV fluids to prevent dehydration if C/S delayed, CTG prior to discharge home to assess fetal well-being, if C/S postponed.
- Re-book postponed C/S for the next most suitable day.
- Inform the rest of the team of the decision e.g. anaesthetics, theatre staff, neonatal unit.
- Neonatal cots cannot be pre-booked, therefore if admission is neonatal dependent consider admission the night before or patient remaining in hospital

Document Title: <i>Cancellation / Delay of ELCS / IOL</i>	3 of 5	Approval Date: 06/09/2019
Reference Number: UHBOBS025		Next Review Date: 06/09/2022
Version Number: 3		Date of Publication: 09/09/2019
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum and O&G Quality & Safety		

- Complete incident form, including information on the reason why the decision was made to postpone C/S.

Role of the midwife:

- Midwife to ensure that the care plan is completed e.g. CTG, further investigations.
- If woman is discharged home, ensure contact details are given to the woman. (*Appendix 1*)

Induction of Labour:

Role of the Consultant Obstetrician

- The Consultant / Senior Registrar must ensure the reason for delay in commencing the Induction of Labour is communicated to the woman. If the IOL is delayed the Consultant / Senior Registrar must see the woman face-to-face and inform her of the decision to cancel her IOL and explain the reasons why this decision has been made.
- If the woman is waiting at home to come in for IOL, A midwife should speak to the woman and convey the delay or postponement and the reasons for this. The woman should be asked to come in to the day assessment unit for assessment of wellbeing of fetus and mother (maternal observations and CTG, if in doubt liaise with Senior SpR).
- All communication must be clearly documented in the case notes.
- An individualised care plan for the woman must be made and documented in the notes e.g. Diet and fluids (consider IV fluids to prevent dehydration) if IOL is delayed, CTG prior to discharge home to assess fetal well-being, if IOL is cancelled.
- Re-book postponed IOL for following day.
- Inform the rest of the team of the decision e.g. neonatal unit, anaesthetics.
- Complete incident form, including information on the reason why the decision was made to delayed or postpone IOL.

Role of the midwife:

- Midwife to ensure that the care plan is completed e.g. CTG, further investigations.

Document Title: <i>Cancellation / Delay of ELCS / IOL</i>	4 of 5	Approval Date: 06/09/2019
Reference Number: UHBOBS025		Next Review Date: 06/09/2022
Version Number: 3		Date of Publication: 09/09/2019
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum and O&G Quality & Safety		

- If woman is discharged home, ensure contact details are given to the woman. (*Appendix 2*)

Appendix 1

Contact details letter – to be given to all women who are discharged home following postponement of elective caesarean section. The letters are kept in the clinical areas.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Date.....

Dear Hospital Number.....

We regret that your Caesarean Section has been delayed and apologise for the inconvenience and concern this will have caused.

Your operation has been rearranged for:

Date.....

Time of admission

Please attend the Delivery Suite on the second floor in the Maternity department.

If you have any concerns before you return to hospital you can speak to a Midwife by ringing:

Delivery Suite UHW - ☎ 029 20742686

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Document Title: <i>Cancellation / Delay of ELCS / IOL</i>	5 of 5	Approval Date: 06/09/2019
Reference Number: UHBOBS025		Next Review Date: 06/09/2022
Version Number: 3		Date of Publication: 09/09/2019
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum and O&G Quality & Safety		

Appendix 2

Contact details letter – to be given to all women who are discharged home following cancellation of Induction of Labour. The letters are kept in the clinical areas.

	<p>GIG CYMRU NHS WALES</p>	<p>Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro Cardiff and Vale University Health Board</p>
<p>Date.....</p>		
<p>Dear Hospital Number.....</p>		
<p>We regret that your Induction of Labour has been cancelled today and apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.</p>		
<p>Your induction has been rearranged for:</p>		
<p>Date.....</p>		
<p>Time of admission</p>		
<p>If you have any concerns before you return to hospital you can speak to a Midwife by ringing:</p>		
<p>Obstetric Assessment Unit UHW - ☎ 029 20744658</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your patience and understanding.</p>		