

Important Information for Expectant Families

If your care provider is a family doctor:

- **Labour and delivery services will be provided at Niagara Health – St. Catharines site.** If you go into labour, please go directly to the St. Catharines site.
- Please note: The St. Catharines labour and delivery team **does not** provide medical advice over the phone. You may contact the team for non-medical questions at 905-378-4647 ext.43283.

If your care provider is a midwife:

- **Planned hospital births will be at Niagara Health - St. Catharines site.** Please call the urgent line (289) 566-8881 to speak with the midwife on call before going to the hospital.

If your care provider is Dr. Gai, Dr. Narine or Dr. Nwebube (WLMH Obstetricians):

- Patients in labour should go to Niagara Health – St Catharines site
- All inductions will occur at Niagara Health – St Catharines site
- If your birthing care plan includes a pre-planned elective C-section, you will deliver at WLMH. You will be provided a date and time for your elective C-section. You will receive further information from your obstetrician.

In an emergency, call 911. The Emergency Department at WLMH remains open 24/7.

For all patients: Your care provider will give you the necessary pre-admission package to be completed in advance. Your health record will also be sent to the appropriate Labour and Delivery unit so that the care team has access to your pregnancy history. If you have any questions about this process, please speak with your provider.

Pre and follow-up postnatal care: Regular care and appointments before and after the birth will take place as planned. Please ask your obstetrical care provider for a copy of your antenatal records after 36 weeks.

Please visit wlmh.ca for regular updates about what is happening at WLMH.

Continued on next page...

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) has a plan to rebuild our West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) site, and a government commitment to get it done quickly.

Until our new facility is ready, HHS and the Ontario government are investing in critical infrastructure upgrades and renovations to keep the current building safe for everyone, and to allow us to return all services to full capacity. As a result, we have only one operating room (OR) available until fall 2020, and we have to make difficult choices about how to organize the services that rely on that resource.

The emergency department, day clinics, inpatient care and diagnostics are **not** affected by the renovations and continue to function while the construction is happening.

We are able to keep scheduling elective surgery, including elective C-sections and gynecology, in our one OR. However, to do this, we need to temporarily move most of our low-risk labor and delivery to another hospital. We've heard loud and clear that the community wants us to keep this specific service running to the greatest extent possible.

That is why the community's family doctors, midwives, and obstetricians who care for patients at WLMH have designed a plan to do that. The plan involves providers caring for their patients at WLMH and Niagara Health (NH) and will allow us to keep serving expectant moms and families in West Niagara in the safest way possible while we do what's needed to meet all the required standards for safe patient care in our hospital.

We are grateful to our system partner NH for maintaining the continuity of care for patients in West Niagara. We also wish to thank our colleagues at McMaster University Medical Centre, NH and other system partners for their support during the past ten weeks.

While this is difficult for our communities and staff, it is a good plan, given the constraints of our aging facility. At the end of the day, we will continue to do whatever is needed to support safe patient care.