

*Women's Services NHS Lothian*  
The Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health,  
51 Little France Crescent  
Edinburgh EH16 4SA

Date November 2015  
Our Ref MWIRHSC

**Management of elective caesarean section activity in Lothian:**

Issue date: November 2015

In Lothian we are committed to supporting you to make the best choices for you and your baby.

Our hospital maternity services are provided in the Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the Maternity Unit at St. John's Hospital, Livingston.

Childbirth is an unpredictable event and at times due to peaks in activity, planned surgery can be delayed as emergency work will take priority. In view of this we have recently reviewed our current management of planned caesarean sections across Maternity Services Lothian to look at ways in which we can reduce delays at times of peak activity.

We carry out planned caesarean sections in both units and our aim is to allocate you an appointment at the hospital closest to your home. However, in order to avoid delays and to be able to provide you with the best possible and most appropriate care, it may be necessary to offer you an appointment at the other hospital.

When your Consultant Obstetrician books your appointment he/she will inform the caesarean section administrator of the ideal time period for your caesarean section. This is almost always after 39 weeks and can be any time between 39 and 42 weeks, depending on your particular circumstances. The administrator will contact you approximately 2 weeks prior to your caesarean section date, to inform you which hospital you will be booked at for your caesarean section. We will aim to accommodate the most convenient date for you within this time frame.

Complex caesarean sections will usually be undertaken at the Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health as is current practice within Maternity Services Lothian. Less complex cases will be performed at both units to ensure safety for mothers and babies and to help avoid unnecessary delays.

Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further then your Consultant Obstetrician will be happy to discuss this with you at your clinic appointment or alternatively you can discuss this with your community midwife.

Yours Sincerely



Frances McGuire  
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Women's Services  
NHS Lothian



Dr Rhona Hughes  
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