

OKLAHOMA Maternal-Infant Quality Care Collaborative

ELECTIVE INDUCTION AND DELIVERY GUIDELINE

◆ Elective delivery, whether by cesarean birth or induction of labor, should be undertaken only after 39 completed weeks of gestation. Fetal lung maturity established prior to 39 weeks, in the absence of appropriate clinical circumstances, is not an indication for delivery. The mother should also have completed the informed consent process with her primary care provider. For an elective induction, counseling of the mother should minimally include risks and benefits of elective induction and:

- indications for induction
- agents and methods of labor stimulation
- plan if labor induction is not successful
- the possibility of a cesarean section, risks and benefits of cesarean section, and the impact of this on future pregnancies
- possibility of the infant requiring specialized neonatal care, longer hospital stay, and/or transfer to another facility (if appropriate) if electively delivered prior to 39 weeks gestation

◆ Confirmation of term gestation for elective delivery should meet at least one of these criteria:

- ultrasound measurement at < 20 weeks of gestation supports gestational age of 39 weeks or greater
- fetal heart tones have been documented as present for 30 weeks by Doppler ultrasonography
- 36 weeks have passed since a positive serum or urine human chorionic gonadotropin pregnancy test result

◆ The primary care provider or qualified nurse should perform a cervical examination in reasonable proximity to the time of induction, and the cervix should be favorable for induction

◆ The mother's prenatal record should be present in her hospital chart

◆ Contraindications to the induction should be sought and understood for each patient

◆ Personnel familiar with maternal and fetal effects of labor stimulating agents should attend to the patient

◆ A physician with privileges to perform cesarean deliveries should be readily available

◆ Cervical ripening for elective inductions is not recommended