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## **CONSENT FOR INDUCTION OF LABOR**

*Your doctor or midwife has recommended that you have an induction of labor. It is important that you and your doctor /midwife discuss the risks and benefits of induction and other possible options. Your doctor/midwife is not an employee or agent of the hospital. They will provide you with additional information about induction and answer any questions you may have.*

### **What is Labor Induction?**

Labor induction is labor that is started with medications or mechanical means to begin the process of childbirth. Labor may be induced for medical reasons or as an elective procedure. If there is concern for your health or the health of your baby, a medical induction is indicated.

Some of the medical reasons may include:

- diabetes
- high blood pressure
- post-dates (greater than 41 weeks or 1 week beyond your due date)
- prolonged rupture of the amniotic sac (bag of water)
- decreased growth of the baby
- abnormal fetal test results
- mother's medical condition

An "elective" induction is one in which the doctor/midwife and the patient choose to start labor without a medical reason. Reasons may include a prior rapid labor or living far away from the hospital.

### **Risks of Induction:**

If this is your first baby and you are considering induction of labor, your risks for complications are considered higher than a non-induced labor. As compared to mothers who begin labor "naturally," on their own, risks of labor induction (elective or medically indicated) in a first time birth can include:

- A doubling (or more) in the cesarean section rate, especially if the cervix is not ready for labor (this is not the case if you are greater than 41 weeks or postdates).
- A longer labor and an increase in the use of vacuum or forceps for delivery.

If you have had a previous vaginal birth in the past, labor induction (medical or elective) does not appear to cause higher rates of complications when:

- The cervix is beginning to shorten (efface) and open (dilate), and
- The pregnancy is at least 39 weeks (so there are no concerns about the baby's maturity)

### **Different Methods For Inducing Labor**

- Depending on your medical and pregnancy history and the status of your cervix, the induction may be started using medicine inserted into your vagina. This process can take some time (hours to days). Your physician or midwife may request that you come to the hospital in the evening so that the medicine can be started in the evening and continue throughout the night.
- When your cervix is "ready," another medicine, oxytocin (Pitocin®) may be started through your IV. This medicine will be gradually increased until you are having strong, regular contractions. Contractions are closely monitored since too frequent contractions can decrease the fetal heart rate. This problem usually resolves by decreasing or stopping the Pitocin®.



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**Different Methods For Inducing Labor** - (Continued from Page 1)

- In some cases, labor induction may be started by breaking the bag of waters, especially if you have already had a vaginal delivery, your cervix has started to dilate and the baby's head is low in your pelvis. Possible risks of breaking the bag of waters is that the umbilical cord could be compressed or slip below the baby's head. Infection could also be a possible risk. These complications rarely happen.
- The "Foley bulb," a small rubber tube with an inflatable balloon at the end, may be placed into the cervical opening; the balloon is inflated with water. The pressure of the balloon partially dilates the cervix and the Foley bulb falls out.

**Additional Risks, Benefits, or Alternatives**


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If signed consent form is not received from doctor/midwife office, it is to be completed on admission to Labor and Delivery.

**AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR INDUCTION OF LABOR**

My doctor/midwife (name of provider who discussed induction) \_\_\_\_\_ has discussed induction of labor with me.

My doctor/midwife has explained to me the risks, benefits, and alternatives associated with an induction of labor. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and all of my questions have been answered. I wish to go forward with the induction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time Signature (Patient)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness only required for physical inability to sign, or signature by mark.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time Witness