

PATIENT INFORMATION

Transfer of Obstetrical Deliveries

Question & Answer

- 1) When is the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) Obstetrics Program Transferring Deliveries/Stopping Deliveries?**
 - At this time, the program remains status quo and open, when there are trained staff and physicians available. The specific timeline for service changes to obstetrics is being determined through a transition plan with SMGH, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STGH). The decision made by the transition-planning group is to have deliveries transferred to our peer hospitals on **June 28, 2024** at 7am.

- 2) I am due to deliver my baby at SMGH in the coming weeks; will I still be able to deliver at SMGH?**
 - Yes. The obstetrics program at SMGH remains status quo and open, when trained staff and physicians are available. We are working on a transition plan with our peer hospitals and remain committed to a seamless transfer of care for patients. The hospital and your physician/midwife will keep you informed of any changes that will affect you.

- 3) I am currently seeing a Family Doctor that delivers at SMGH; will I need to find another doctor to care for me during my pregnancy?**
 - No. Your Family Doctor will keep seeing you, and refer out when the time comes, if needed. We are working on a transition plan with LHSC and STEGH that will ensure a seamless transition, if needed. Your Family Doctor will keep you informed of any changes that will affect your care and delivery, and information will be available on the hospital website.

- 4) What Obstetrical services will SMGH continue to offer?**
 - We will begin a stakeholder engagement process that includes input from our physicians, midwives, staff, regional hospital partners and community to determine what Obstetrical services, and other women's health services, will continue, expand on and be added at SMGH.

- 5) Should I ask to transfer my care to a physician at London Health Sciences Centre or St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital now?**
 - If you have any questions or concerns about your care, you should speak directly to your doctor as they will be able to advise you on any issues or the timing related to a potential transfer of care to another provider for your birthing experience.

6) Why is SMGH no longer offering birthing services when they have been doing so for decades?

- SMGH has had a long, cherished history of delivering babies thanks to the dedication and commitment of passionate physicians, nurses and staff. Over the years, SMGH has provided exceptional obstetrical care. However, ongoing challenges faced by the Obstetrics Program at SMGH are now impacting the ability to provide accessible, safe, and high-quality care into the future. A decision was made to transfer births to nearby hospitals with larger obstetrical volumes that offer a higher level of care, including pediatrician and Neonatal Intensive Care support, if required.

7) What women's health services will SMGH be offering going forward?

- While the Obstetric Program will no longer deliver babies, we remain committed to enhancing women's health services for our community. Ongoing decisions about the future of obstetrical care and women's health services at SMGH will be made in consultation with many stakeholders, including our community.

8) I am hearing that in the future SMGH will still deliver my baby regardless, is this true?

- SMGH has a 24/7 Emergency Department, with trained emergency staff. If a mom shows up in labor, she will be assessed and it will be determined if there is time for her to be transferred to a partner hospital that does Obstetrical deliveries, or if there is the need to deliver in the Emergency Department.

9) If I have other questions, where can I go for information?

- You can speak with your Family Physician/Midwife and updated information will be available on the MHA website at www.mhalliance.on.ca.

10) I am unhappy with this decision, who can I speak with or tell?

- To provide feedback related to this decision, please email the hospital at patientrelations@mha.tvh.ca or by phone at **SMGH** 519-245-5295 ext. 5594.

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