University College Hospital
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Wing

Maternity Service
Planned (Elective) caesarean section
Introduction

UCLH and Whittington Hospital have developed a partnership to provide certain services. The partnership means that for certain services, parts of your care may be provided at the Whittington Hospital, rather than UCLH.

One service involved in the partnership is planned, or elective, caesarean sections for specific groups of women.

This leaflet explains more about when planned caesareans would be provided at the Whittington Hospital for women having ante natal care at UCLH.

What is a planned/elective caesarean section?

A caesarean section, or C-section, is an operation to deliver your baby through a cut made in your tummy, just below your bikini line.

A caesarean section is a major operation that carries a number of risks, so it's usually only done if it's the safest option for you and your baby.

A planned (elective) caesarean section can take place for two reasons:

- Medical indication; this is when a medical need for the operation becomes apparent during pregnancy.
- Maternal request

Words we use in this leaflet

The phrases elective caesarean and planned caesarean mean the same thing. In this leaflet we use the term planned caesarean section.
Who is this leaflet for?
This leaflet is for women who may have a planned caesarean section.

Why might I have a planned caesarean section?
At your first antenatal visit to UCLH, your midwife will discuss options for how you may like to give birth. Depending on your medical history and any previous pregnancies, you may indicate that you would prefer to have a planned caesarean section or you may require one due to your previous medical or obstetric history.

If I am having a planned caesarean section, where and when would I have my baby?
You would have the caesarean section at either the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Wing of University College Hospital or at Whittington Hospital.

The location would depend on which maternity unit is best placed to meet your needs and has the capacity to provide you with safe care.

Women who have a low risk pregnancy, for example, they have had a caesarean section before, or make a maternal request or do not require specialist obstetric or neonatal care will be transferred to the Whittington Hospital.

The caesarean section would take place during the week of your due date which is 40 weeks, unless there is a medical reason that means you need to have your baby at an earlier date.
When is the decision made about where I will have my caesarean section?

Following agreement by the obstetric team that you require a planned caesarean section, this along with the hospital in which it will take place will be made between 34 – 36wks.

When would my care transfer to Whittington Health?

Your care will usually be transferred between 34 and 36 weeks.

Where can I get more information about maternity services at Whittington Health?

You can get more information about Whittington Health on their website: www.whittington.nhs.uk.

Contact details / UCLH

Switchboard: 0845 155 5000 or 020 3456 7890
Email: CSection.List@uclh.nhs.uk
Website: www.uclh.nhs.uk

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