



## Elective (scheduled) Caesarean Sections

### *Information for Expectant Mothers and their Families*

In Winnipeg, and right across the country, the number of babies born annually has been steadily increasing since 2005. This is because of a number of factors including:

- The 'baby boom echo' (the children of baby boomers now having their own babies);
- The increase in both Winnipeg's and Manitoba's populations; and
- Women having babies earlier and later in life.

The Winnipeg Health Region has been aware of this trend and has been planning for it, primarily by increasing capacity in the new Women's Hospital currently under construction.

However, the number of births has increased more rapidly than anticipated.

This has meant at times - when the number of women in labour or still in hospital after giving birth is particularly high – that some expectant mothers are transferred between hospitals. Usually, but not always, the transfer is from St. Boniface Hospital to Health Sciences Centre, which has more physical capacity for births.

In order to try and prevent moving patients who are already in labour from hospital to hospital, a process has been put in place to transfer scheduled caesarean sections from St. Boniface to Health Sciences Centre. ***If your physician determines that an elective (scheduled) caesarean section is necessary in your case, s/he will inform you, book the date and time and answer any other questions you may have.*** S/he will also be the one to perform the caesarean section.

While this will be a disappointment for those affected who identified St. Boniface as their preferred choice, the safety and quality of care of all our expectant mothers and their children is our top priority. Transferring patients, who are already in labour would only be done if absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have further questions or concerns, please call your physician's office or the WRHA Client Relations line at 204.926.7825.