

May 13, 2019

Dear Patient:

Congratulations on your pregnancy and the upcoming arrival of your newborn. We recognize that this is a very special time in your life, and we thank you for entrusting Abington – Jefferson Health with your maternity care needs.

The Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health Maternity Program is a source of great pride to us and the entire hospital community. For more than 100 years, we have built a program of excellence that provides exceptional obstetrics care, making us a leading maternity provider in the Delaware Valley. We would like to take a moment to provide you with some updates about our maternity program.

The Mother/Baby leadership team reviews our programs and considers how we can best meet your needs. Our goals are always to continuously improve quality of care in the physician offices and in the hospital, and to increase the availability of appointments with obstetricians in their offices.

Obstetrics Team Model

After more than a year of thoughtful analysis, we are transitioning to an obstetrics team model for labor and delivery. Forward-thinking healthcare institutions such as Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston – the largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School – have implemented similar models as the one Abington Hospital will put into effect. Locally, Pennsylvania Hospital, the largest maternity provider in the Delaware Valley (Abington Hospital is the second largest), has had a similar model in place for more than 10 years.

We believe this approach will make our exceptional program even better and enhance the care we provide to expectant moms. This new model is designed to provide a collaborative, high quality and safety-focused obstetrics delivery team comprised of our talented obstetricians and supported by OB hospitalists.

Beginning July 1, 2019, when you arrive at the hospital for your delivery, we will make every effort to match you with an obstetrician from your practice. However, if that is not possible, one of the other physicians on the obstetrics team will care for you during labor and delivery. This physician will be:

- An obstetrician from another Abington – Jefferson Health practice; or
- An OB hospitalist (an OB/GYN physician whose practice is limited exclusively to the care of women during labor and delivery)

One of the advantages of this model is that the obstetrician will be at the hospital when you arrive and will be focused on your individual needs during labor and delivery. In addition to obstetricians, our specially trained and experienced labor and delivery nurses will provide expertise and support every step of the way.

In the case of c-sections or scheduled inductions, your prenatal obstetrician may be able to schedule and perform your delivery. Please discuss this option with your obstetrician. Unplanned c-sections or inductions will be determined and performed by one of the obstetricians on the obstetrics team.

continued

Improved Quality of Care

Hospitals across the U.S. that have implemented similar models of care have found benefits such as improved quality through advanced standardization of care:

- Lower c-section rates
- Lower episiotomy rates
- Reduction of induced labors
- Lower rates of preterm labor

Better Access to OB/GYNs

With this team approach, you may also experience the following benefits:

- Increased availability of OB/GYNs in their offices with less interrupted care (More than 1,000 additional appointments could become available within Abington – Jefferson Health’s OB/GYN practices when this approach is implemented.)
- Together with your obstetrician, you have the option to determine whether rotating through practice providers is still the best approach for you.
- 24/7 in-house availability of the obstetrics team for labor and delivery

Looking Ahead

In addition, we have these enhancements planned as a response to the needs of our expectant moms:

- **Expansion of Ultrasound Services**

Our doctors and women in our community have told us they would like to have ultrasound testing available closer to patients’ homes, rather than having to travel to one of our hospital locations. We are pleased to report that our patients will soon be able to undergo first and second trimester ultrasounds at five locations throughout the region to improve convenience. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

- **Improved C-Section Scheduling**

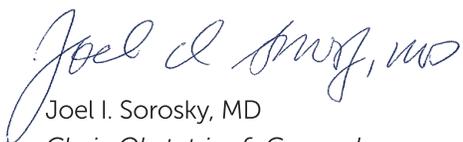
To improve the experience of our maternity patients and the efficiency of our c-section scheduling process, plans are underway to add a third c-section room. This improvement will help minimize delays.

In Conclusion

Abington Hospital is committed to continuous improvement in our care. Please be assured you will continue to receive the exceptional care we have been delivering for more than a century. We have included a *Frequently Asked Questions* document to address any additional questions you may have. You can also contact your OB/GYN’s office for additional information.

Wishing you all the very best as you prepare for the arrival of your new baby!

Sincerely,



Joel I. Sorosky, MD
Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Abington – Jefferson Health



Amy M. Mackey, MD
Vice Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Abington – Jefferson Health