

**Medical Directive****Obstetric Patient in the Emergency Department****Site/Corporate: Maternal Child Service & Emergency Service****Approved: Medical Advisory Committee – April 15, 2008****Authorized to who**

Registered Nurses working in the Emergency Department at Lakeridge Health Port Perry and Lakeridge Health Oshawa

**Medical Directive Description**

Patients will be transferred to the New Life Centre/Birthing Suite for ongoing obstetric assessment and care when the ER Registered Nurse has assessed that the:

- patient is physiologically stable for transfer to the New Life Centre (eg, no evidence of respiratory distress, hemodynamically stable, vital signs stable, etc.)

**Patient Description / Population**

- patients who present to the ER triage desk for assessment
- Obstetric patients who are over 20 weeks gestation and experiencing a possible pregnancy-related concern (eg. Abdominal cramping or pain, backache, vaginal leaking of fluid, decreased fetal movement, vaginal bleeding, headache etc.)

**Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive**

- Triage certified ER nurse

**Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be implemented**

Identified MRP:

- Patient's own family physician who practices obstetrics (LHPP & LHO)
- ER physician if the patient is not under the care of a NLC physician (LHPP)
- Obstetrician-on-call (LHO)

**Contraindications to the implementation of the Directive**

None

**Documentation requirements**

- ER triage record
- Pt to be "temporarily relocated" to NLC for purposes of documentation (LHPP)
- Obstetric triage record

**Review/Evaluation Process (how often/by who)**

Every 2 years by the Maternal Child Service and Emergency Service

**References**

