

**London Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Middlesex County
Emergency Services
and Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program Ambulance Destination
Policy**

Pregnant Patients in the City of London

Background

Hospital based Obstetrical care is only provided at Victoria Hospital (LHSC). Alternatively patients may decide on a home birth with the assistance of a Midwife. The purpose of this policy is to assist paramedics and EMS dispatchers to determine the most appropriate destination for a patient in labour, or with complications of pregnancy.

This policy takes precedence OVER the patient priority system (ie. Time consideration) and patient preference.

Exclusions

- Patient complaint is NOT related to her pregnancy
- Presenting Fetal Parts
- Maternal Vital Signs Absent OR Obstructed Airway
- Maternal Systolic Blood Pressure less than 90 mmHG AND symptomatic (ex. Chest Pain, Short of Breath or Light Headed) AND not corrected with placing patient in left lateral position.

Protocol

When the patient complaint appears to be related to her pregnancy the following guidelines apply:

1. Pregnancy less than 20 weeks gestational age – proceed to the Victoria Hospital LHSC Emergency Department (ED).
2. Pregnancy greater than or equal to 20 weeks gestational age - proceed to Victoria Hospital LHSC Obstetrical Triage.

If delivery has occurred and BOTH mother and newborn are well proceed to Victoria Hospital LHSC Obstetrical Triage.

If in the paramedic's judgment either the mother or the newborn would be placed at risk by bypassing the nearest Emergency Department, paramedics should proceed to the nearest Emergency Department.

Pregnant patients greater than or equal to 20 weeks gestational age suffering from trauma should be taken to the Victoria Hospital LHSC ED. The destination for pregnant patients less than 20 weeks gestational age suffering from trauma should be determined by the Trauma Destination policy.

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