WHAT IF I HAVE A TRANSFER OF CARE?

Midwives in Ontario are governed by the College of Midwives of Ontario (CMO). They give clear guidelines at every point in pregnancy indicating when it is mandatory to consult another professional, and when the care must be transferred to a physician. St. Jacobs Midwives have privileges at Waterloo Regional Health Network (WRHN) (formerly Grand River Hospital) where there are hospital-specific guidelines indicating when a transfer is necessary.

Transfer of care means that the decisions about the management of your care are made by the physician. This can occur at any point in the pregnancy. You may have prenatal visits with the physician. In some cases your prenatal care may be shared between the midwife and physician. If your care is transferred, your midwife will remain in a supportive role and will still attend your birth at WRHN (including c-sections) even if you are cared for by hospital staff. The midwife will resume care for you when it is appropriate. We will still visit you at home or hospital in the first week after birth even if you are under the care of the doctor.

Sometimes a baby needs to go to the Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) where the baby will be under the care of the pediatrician. The midwife will usually resume care once they are discharged from the hospital.

Some examples of reasons for transfer of care in the prenatal period might by high blood pressure, diabetes or if there are concerns about the growth of the baby. Delivery reasons might include breech presentation or if you need to be induced. A midwife <u>does not</u> transfer care to monitor an epidural, start an IV, administer antibiotics, break your water or suture most tears.

If during your pregnancy you decide you would prefer to have the care of an obstetrician, this would be considered a permanent transfer of care and the midwife would not be involved in your care anymore.

If a transfer becomes necessary your midwife will have a discussion with you about why it is necessary and what to expect in your individual case.