

Hospital Quick Tips for Improvement

Elective Deliveries



Early Elective Inductions & Deliveries

Nonmedically indicated delivery, including cesarean delivery, inductions of labor, and cervical ripening should not occur before 39 0/7 weeks of gestation.¹

Infants born earlier are at greater risk of infant mortality and are more likely to suffer breathing, feeding, and developmental problems.^{2,3}



Medical indications justifying an elective delivery prior to 39 weeks are detailed in [The Joint Commission manual](#).⁴



Reduce demand and barriers, provide clear clinical direction, and use standardized forms (more info in The Leapfrog Group's Before 39 Weeks Gestational Age [Toolkit](#)).⁵

Primary Cesarean (TJC PC-02)

Increased cesarean births do not result in reductions in morbidity & mortality, and cesarean-related health risks include increased rates of infection, hemorrhage, and hospital readmission.^{6,7}



Women who self-identify as Black are disproportionately more likely to have a cesarean in SC. The SCBOI Birth Equity Workgroup is working to identify and expand evidence-based clinical and community-based initiatives that address this and other racial inequities in SC. Get meeting information [here](#).



SC Birth Outcomes Initiative (SCBOI) launched the Supporting Vaginal Birth (SVB) Initiative in 2014 and has provided several tools to support your hospital in preventing primary cesareans in its SVB [bundle](#).⁸



Additional information may be reviewed in three SCBOI SVB [webinars](#) and AIM's printable Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth [bundle](#).^{9,10}



Learn more from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement regarding the safe reduction of NTSV cesarean births in this [short video](#).

SOURCES

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- 3 Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. National Child & Maternal Health Education Program. Know your terms: Full-term pregnancy. Retrieved from <https://www1.nichd.nih.gov/ncmhhep/initiatives/know-your-terms/Pages/moms.aspx>.
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- 10 Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth Bundle. Retrieved from <https://safehealthcareforeverywoman.org/aim/patient-safety-bundles/maternal-safety-bundles/safe-reduction-of-primary-cesarean-birth-aim/>.