**Elective Caesarean Section**

This leaflet is intended to give you additional information following your discussion with the doctor or midwife. If, after reading this, you have any questions, please ask these at your next antenatal appointment or at your pre-operative assessment visit.

In the majority of cases you will be contacted by telephone with a date for your caesarean approximately 1 week prior to your planned operation date. Due to the medical need/requirement of other women very occasionally this date may have to be re-arranged, and in such circumstances you will be contacted with an alternative date. In addition to this you will be given an appointment to attend the hospital for a pre- operative assessment.

* Your date for your caesarean will normally be between **39-40** weeks up to and including your **due** date. Sometimes due to pregnancy complications a date may be given prior to 39 weeks.
* Currently there are two theatre lists for caesareans each week, taking place on Tuesdays and Thursday every week with the exception of the third week of each month where the list runs on a Friday.

**What happens at the pre-operative assessment visit?**

During your antenatal clinic appointment when your plan for caesarean birth is confirmed, the doctor will explain the operation and answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to sign a consent form.

An appointment will be made for you to visit the antenatal clinic or ward for a pre-operative assessment. This will be no more than seven days before the caesarean section.

You will be seen by a maternity support worker and/or midwife. They will perform your observations, take some blood samples, weigh you and measure you for compression stockings. They will explain the admission procedure including fasting times. You will also be seen by an anaesthetist to discuss the anaesthesia for this operation and the benefits and risks that are related to this.

Following on from this appointment you will be asked to attend Pannal ward on the morning of your caesarean date where you will be prepared for the procedure to meet your baby.

If you have not received a date for your procedure by 39 weeks please contact us.