I wanted to draw your attention to some changes we are making for management of postdates pregnancies during the COVID pandemic. These changes aim to improve social distancing and reduce antenatal visits for patients whilst maintaining best possible outcomes for mothers and babies. Consensus for these changes has been reached by a multi-disciplinary group.

1. For 'low risk' pregnancies, the final antenatal visit will be at 40 weeks' gestation. Postdates induction should be discussed at this visit, a sweep offered and a provisional booking for induction of labour should be made.

2. Post-dates inductions should be commenced at 41-3 weeks' gestation. Bookings can now be made 10 days in advance. Women should be advised that this is a provisional date and that there may be slight changes based on service activity (which will be assessed 2-3 days before planned admission).

3. Women who are otherwise low risk, but have risk factors for postdates stillbirth (maternal age >40 years, South Asian ethnicity, BMI >35kg/m²) would be induced at 40 weeks. This advice should be discussed prior to the 40 week antenatal appointment.

4. The normal process of postdates surveillance (ultrasound scan / CTG at 41 weeks) has been suspended.

5. Additional appointments / investigations should be arranged if you are of the clinical opinion that they are needed, but are not regarded as being routine.

Best wishes,

Jon Hyett
Head of High Risk Obstetrics
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