What to Expect

During Your Visit to the TGH Women's Center Labor & Delivery Unit

Tampa General Hospital
WOMEN'S CENTER

Welcome to our unit. The following information will help explain what to expect during your visit. If you have questions about your care or experience, please ask your nurse.

When you arrive at the unit, visitor passes will be issued to your family. One family member will be permitted to enter the unit during your initial evaluation. All others are welcome to wait in the waiting room. We ask that no visitor or family member wait or stand in the hallways. Visitation by children in Labor and Delivery is limited to siblings of the new baby only.

We appreciate your cooperation as we provide safe and confidential care to all our patients.

The change-of-shift nursing report is done at the bedside. If you do not want your information shared in front of your visitors or family members, please inform your nurse. Your visitors/family members will then be asked to wait in the waiting room during this time.

We strive to **ALWAYS** provide you with safe, quality care, and to make your stay pleasant and enjoyable.

Triage: Evaluation Area

Our goal is to always give every patient the individual care and attention needed. Expect your evaluation visit to last several hours. The average stay for an evaluation is four hours. We will keep you informed during the process.

- **Please do not bring valuables or jewelry with you to the hospital. We ask that you keep your personal items, suitcases, etc. to a minimum, as you may be transferred from one area to another.**
- You will be escorted to a room where you will put on a hospital gown and be asked questions. Your baby will be monitored with a fetal monitor during this time. This allows us to evaluate your baby's heart rate and your contractions. While you are being monitored, we ask that you remain in bed.
- After your initial evaluation, the visitor policy permits you to have up to two visitors with you.
- You will not be allowed to eat or drink until your provider says you can.

Induction of Labor

If an induction is necessary, your doctor or midwife will arrange the date and time with the hospital. Our Labor and Delivery Unit may become busy, and sometimes there may be a delay in the initiation of your induction. In some cases, after consulting with your medical provider, we may need to change the date and time of your induction. Once your induction is started, it may take from 12 to more than 48 hours for your baby to be born.

Labor & Delivery

- Once you have been admitted, you will be transferred to a Labor and Delivery Suite.
- The visitor policy allows you to have up to three visitors with you.
- Most of our patients are allowed ice chips. You are not allowed to eat or drink unless ordered by your provider.
- Pain management options are available and will be discussed and determined by you and your provider.
- Epidurals: You may be asked to watch a video that explains the epidural procedure. During the epidural procedure your family members and visitors will be directed to wait in the waiting room. We ask that no visitor or family member wait or stand in the hallways. They may return once the procedure is completed.
- Two of the labor suites are equipped with jetted whirlpool tubs. If allowed by your provider, you may use the tubs for hydrotherapy during labor. The tubs are not designed for "water births." Each labor room is equipped with showers and, if permitted by your provider, you may also use the shower during labor.

- The typical length of stay in the Labor and Delivery area after you have delivered the baby is two hours. After your recovery time you and your baby will then be moved to the Mother-Baby Unit.

Planned Cesarean Section

Although you have a scheduled time for your surgery, please be aware that obstetrical emergencies may delay your surgery from starting at your scheduled time. You may be required to wait prior to your surgery.

- **Please do not bring valuables or jewelry with you to the hospital. We ask that you keep your personal items, suitcases, etc. to a minimum, as you will be transferred from one area to another.**
- You will be escorted to a room where you will put on a hospital gown and be asked questions. Your baby will be monitored with a fetal monitor during this time. This allows us to evaluate your baby's heart rate.
- During your admission, and before surgery, you will have an IV placed and blood samples drawn. You are not allowed to eat or drink anything before surgery.
- After your initial evaluation and admission you may have up to three visitors.
- The doctor who provides anesthesia will talk to you about what type of anesthesia is best for you.
- If you are awake during your surgery, one person may go into the operating room with you. Your other family members will be directed to the waiting room. We ask that no visitor or family member wait or stand in the hallways.
- After surgery you will then be admitted into the recovery area. You may have 1-2 visitors after your initial evaluation.
- You will be in the recovery room for two hours after your surgery. During this time you will not be able to eat or drink anything except for a few ice chips. After your recovery period you and your baby will be moved to the Mother-Baby Unit.
- To provide privacy to all patients in the recovery room, family members may be asked to wait in the waiting room during report time or emergencies.

Infant Safety

The Women's Center has 24-hour manned security monitoring access to the unit, as well as badge-only access. The Women's Center staff has special identification badges and will always identify you and your baby by verifying your patient identification bracelets. You should only give your baby to someone with this special identification badge.

Thank you for choosing Tampa General Hospital for your care.