

March 2014

Dear

Welcome to Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and congratulations on your pregnancy. You will receive a lot of information during your pregnancy and after the birth of your baby.

This letter is to tell you about the policy at this hospital regarding 'maternal request for Caesarean birth'. The term is used to describe a request for a Caesarean when there is no threat to the health of the mother or baby.

Our policy is not to support maternal requests for Caesarean birth because:

- If your pregnancy progresses normally, a natural birth is safer for you than a Caesarean both for that birth, and in subsequent pregnancies if you decide to have more children.
- In addition, agreeing to maternal requests for Caesarean would affect the quality of care offered to mothers who need one for medical reasons because there is a limit on the number of operations that can be performed safely on any given day.

If you have concerns about normal childbirth, we can arrange for you to talk to a Consultant Obstetrician and a Consultant Midwife. You will be able to discuss your options with them and consider your personal circumstances when advising you on how to give birth. If you wish we can provide you with the names of other hospitals that might support your request.

We hope you understand that our policy is in the best interests of all our mothers.

Yours sincerely

Veronica Miller  
Clinical Director for Women's Services

Jane Hervé  
Head of Midwifery