



Elective Caesarian Section Policy

Policy Number
WCDHB-PC-0009

Version Nos:
3

1. Purpose

This Policy provides support for West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) clinicians in their professional judgements and decision-making process with respect to patient/consumer/client requests and demands for an elective Caesarian Section to be performed when there is no clinical basis for such a procedure to be undertaken.

2. Application

This Policy is to be followed by all WCDHB clinicians.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy

Elective Caesarian Section is taken to mean a Caesarian Section procedure performed when there is no clinical basis for such a procedure to be undertaken.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Clinical staff are required to abide by the requirements of this Policy.

5. Resources Required

This Policy requires no specific resources.

6. Process

- 1.00 WCDHB does not approve of any instance whereby Caesarian Sections are performed purely for social or other convenience reasons.
- 1.01 WCDHB acknowledges that the performing of elective Caesarian Sections places a potential risk on the child, mother and clinicians involved.
- 1.02 WCDHB does not agree with or will allow elective Caesarian Sections to be performed where there is no clinical basis for such a procedure.
- 1.03 WCDHB acknowledges that elective procedures in all clinical services are restricted through the application of a booking system, with specific requirements for each clinical service.
- 1.04 WCDHB considers it to be inequitable and a potential clinical risk to provide any elective procedure purely on the basis of patient/consumer/client request/choice, where there is no clinical reason or basis for the performing of such a procedure.
- 1.05 Where a clinician receives a request for the performing of an elective Caesarian Section they are to inform the patient/consumer/client that such a request cannot be complied with, and the reasons why the request cannot be complied with.



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- 1.06 Where a patient/consumer/client requests an elective Caesarian Section and offers to pay for the procedure, then their request is to be considered by the relevant clinician and the General Manager – Operations. Agreement on the amount to charge is to take into account reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of the procedure.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ WCDHB does not approve of any instance whereby Caesarian Sections are performed purely for social or other convenience reasons.
- ➔ WCDHB does not agree with or will allow elective Caesarian Sections to be performed where there is no clinical basis for such a procedure.
- ➔ Where a clinician receives a request for the performing of an elective Caesarian Section they are to inform the patient/consumer/client that such a request cannot be complied with, and the reasons why the request cannot be complied with.

8. References

Hutt Valley District Health Board Elective Caesarian Policy
Parents Centre Article “Caesarian Sections – The Costs of Choosing

9. Related Documents

There are no other documents related to this Policy.

Revision History	Version:	3
	Developed By:	Risk & Quality Manager
	Authorised By:	Senior Medical Advisor/GM - Operations
	Date Authorised:	February 2004
	Date Last Reviewed:	November 2007
	Date Of Next Review:	November 2009