

**PROTOCOL FOR: Obstetrical Patient: Triage of**

**POLICY:** All pregnant patients will be evaluated in the ED by the ED attending or in L&D by the OB-GYN service.

**DESIRED PATIENT**

**OUTCOMES:** Obstetrical patients will be triaged to the appropriate area, either the ED or in L&D.

**DECISION-MAKING**

- PROCESS:**
1. All pregnant patients less than 20 weeks gestational age will be evaluated by the ED attending.
  2. Pregnant patients with a gestational age of 20 weeks or greater, will have the OB-GYN service notified of their case as deemed appropriate by the ED attending. If the chief complaint is directly related to pregnancy, L&D will be called and the patient triaged to L&D as appropriate.
  3. Already established patient-physician relationships will be recognized and OB-GYN service or Perinatal group will be consulted as appropriate.

- IMPLEMENTATION:**
1. When a pregnant patient <20 weeks gestational age presents to the ED, the patient is registered to the ED and evaluated by the ED attending.
  2. When a pregnant patient 20 weeks or greater gestational age presents to the ED with a chief complaint directly related to pregnancy, L&D is first notified by the triage nurse and the patient transported directly to L&D if deemed appropriate. Pregnant patients 20+ weeks gestational age with other chief complaints not directly related to pregnancy (i.e. asthma, extremity trauma) will be registered and evaluated by the ED attending. The ED attending will then confer with the OB-GYN service as deemed appropriate.
  3. If a situation should arise in which it is unclear as to where the patient will be evaluated, the ED attending should be consulted before the patient is transported out of the Emergency Department to another area.
  4. If L&D has prior knowledge and has advised a patient to come to the Emergency Department, the L&D staff will notify the ED that the patient will be arriving.

**APPROVAL:** Nursing Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1/90

**REVISION DATES:** 9/97

**REVIEWED DATES:** 1/06, 9/08