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1. Are there specific reasons why your hospital's C-section rate is higher than the national NTSV (nulliparous, term, singleton, vertex) target of 23.9 percent?

We can attribute c-section rates to various factors, including certain risk factors or medical conditions that could put the health of the mother and child at risk such as advanced age of the mother, high blood pressure or gestational diabetes, as well as maternal request. Maternal requests of c-sections may be attributed to cultural reasons. It is our practice, and has been for many years, to educate our patients about their delivery options.

2. Are you currently part of any quality improvement projects/programs related to C-sections? If yes, please specify which projects you have joined.

South Miami Hospital was one of 25 hospitals around the country to partner with the March of Dimes in a one-year study to reduce elective deliveries before 39 weeks.

3. What specific remedies have you already put in place to date to address your hospital's higher rate of C-sections?

Our physicians discuss c-section rates and cases internally and consider how the rate of c-sections might be reduced. Per the [ACOG committee opinion](#) on cesarean delivery on maternal request, physicians are encouraged to recommend a vaginal delivery in the absence of any maternal or fetal risk factors.

4. Do you share physician-level C-section rates internally, with physicians who practice at your hospital? If you do, how is this information used?

Physicians discuss this information on a regular basis.

4. Please describe the role that midwives play in your hospital.

Similar to other providers, midwives can apply to be credentialed to practice at Baptist Health facilities. They are a valuable part of our staff.

5. What is your hospital's VBAC rate? Are VBAC candidates encouraged by your hospital's staff and care providers to opt for a trial of labor if desired?

Each case is different, and our physicians work with the patients and families individually to decide on a delivery plan that will have the best possible outcome for the mother and the baby.

6. What changes do you plan on implementing in the future, to address your hospital's higher C-section rate?

Our physicians discuss risks and benefits of any birth plan with each patient and family. Physicians also work closely with other clinicians and hospital leaders to continuously evaluate and improve patient

care. As clinical teams strive to ensure the patient has the best possible outcome, physicians and patients are engaged in shared decision-making.

7. What information do you share with patients regarding their delivery options at your hospital? Please send us any educational material you send to your patients.

Physicians work with the patients and families individually to decide on a delivery plan that will have the best possible outcome for the mother and the baby. Baptist Health offers a number of courses that prepare expectant parents for childbirth. The stages of labor, vaginal and cesarean births, comfort measures, and breathing and pushing are just some of the topics covered in our childbirth preparation classes.

More information on our maternity services and course offerings can be found at:

<https://baptisthealth.net/en/health-services/pregnancy-and-childbirth/pages/default.aspx>

8. Describe the role of your hospital's leadership (CEO, Board of Directors) in addressing your hospital's high rate of C-sections.

Baptist Health leaders and boards take quality care very seriously. For many years, there has been a board committee dedicated to quality, which focuses on clinical outcomes and process improvement. In addition, our Evidence-based Care Committee continuously reviews quality and outcomes, as well as national standards.