Interim Guideline for the Triage of Obstetric Patients
Transferred to Yale New Haven Health

Given the developments in New York State related to COVID-19, the Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) Labor and Birth units have been receiving inquiries and visits from maternity patients from New York State who are not previously registered with our hospital or affiliated providers. Yale New Haven Health leadership is concerned that, without adequate planning, a potential large influx of these patients could overwhelm capacity. We are also committed to providing safe, compassionate, and equitable care of high standards. During the COVID-19 pandemic, patients are not permitted visitors except in special circumstances such as in obstetrics. While we review our long-term approach to this unexpected development, we have enacted the following measures:

1. Obstetric patients who have resided in New York State in the previous 14 days, and all obstetric patients at Greenwich Hospital, will have a mask placed on entry to the hospital. Patients will be screened for risk for COVID-19 infection as per hospital protocol. We are advising that these patients continue to wear a mask for the duration of their hospital stay.

2. All obstetric patients that are not previously registered for prenatal care with an affiliated YNHHS provider will be admitted to the appropriate hospitalist service at the hospital of presentation. Routine procedures for unregistered patients (eg. toxicology studies, social work consultations) will be ordered per usual care.

3. Patients who have established prenatal care (registered) with a YNHHS affiliated provider will be allowed a single visitor during childbirth and postpartum. This visitor cannot be switched during the admission. Allowances for visitors during triage and antepartum care will be determined locally by the hospital leadership.

4. All potential visitors presenting for entry to the hospital must pass a detailed screening process. We will not allow entry to visitors accompanying patients from New York State that are not previously registered for prenatal care with an affiliated provider. Visitors who have spent time in New York State in the previous 14 days will not be allowed in the obstetrics units, except at Greenwich Hospital. Visitors will be subject to temperature assessment twice daily, at minimum. Failure to comply with temperature screening will terminate visitor privileges.

5. The following are required for a patient to be considered to have established prenatal care (registered) with a provider at YNHHS:
   a. Two prenatal visits are required, including one ‘new patient’ visit and one ‘follow-up’ visit. The visits must be with an MD or CNM. These visits can be through telemedicine.
   b. Complete records from previous prenatal care must be available in the Epic chart.
   c. Results console is complete with prenatal labs. Complete will be defined as, at a minimum: blood type, antibody screen, appropriate gestational diabetes screening test, rubella screen, hepatitis B surface antigen, HIV, syphilis test, hemoglobin/hematocrit, platelets, and, if 37 weeks or more, GBS.
   d. Hospital registration is complete.
   e. Review of visitation policy is documented in the Epic chart.
   f. A checklist will be created that will be performed at admission to document that the 5 previous criteria are met.