

URGENCY OF CAESAREAN SECTION

	Category 1 RED	Category 2 ORANGE	Category 3 YELLOW	Category 4 GREEN
	Emergency- immediate threat to life of women or fetus	Maternal or fetal compromise which is not immediately life threatening	Needing early delivery, but no maternal or fetal compromise	At a time to suit the woman and maternity team
Target time (decision to incision- suggested only)	Within 30 minutes	Within 75 minutes	Within 6 hours	Within 24 hours
Personnel	Most senior surgeon on floor; Most senior anaesthetist on obstetric duty Most experienced theatre staff on duty Most experienced paediatric doctor available NO student (medical or nursing), MO or intern training can take place	Supervision by most experienced personnel; training of experienced MO or registrar allowed	Available personnel, training allowed	Available personnel, training lists
Fetal condition (examples)	Fetal Hypoxia or persistent bradycardia	Abnormal CTG	Fetal indication for planned delivery	Any planned indication for CS birth
	Cord prolapse	Cord presentation; patient in labour		
		Footling breech, patient in labour		
Clinical presentation	Abruptio placentae; baby alive and viable	Poor progress in labour; crossed action line	Eclampsia, failed induction of labour or vaginal delivery not possible	Breech/abnormal presentation at term, not in labour
	Placenta praevia- massive bleeding	Unsuccessful attempt at VBAC	Failed induction of labour- urgent indication for delivery	Failed induction of labour- non-urgent indication for delivery
	Uterine rupture/dehiscence	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	2 or more previous CS/previous classical CS in early labour	Elective CS, booked but not done due to lack of theatre time
	Abandoned assisted delivery vacuum/forceps	2 or more previous CS or other previous uterine surgery in active labour	One previous CS, patient not for VBAC, in early labour	
		Twin pregnancy; delivery of second twin	Any category 4 patient presenting in labour	
Maternal condition		Severe maternal disease requiring planned delivery		
Exclusions	Senior healthcare professional's discretion			