

PROTOCOL TO DETERMINE URGENCY AND TIMING OF CAESAREAN SECTION

The following easily remembered classification exists in international literature in various modifications. The basis is:

GRADE	DEFINITION	TIMING OF CAESAREAN SECTION
1 – EMERGENCY	Immediate threat to life of mother or baby	Immediate operation <i>within 30min</i>
2 – URGENT	Distress, but not immediately life-threatening	Time to stabilize patient – deliver <i>within 2-4hrs</i>
3 – SCHEDULED	No distress, but needing early but planned delivery	Planned early delivery, <i>within 12-24hrs</i>
4 – ELECTIVE	Planned operative delivery in stable maternal condition.	At a time to suit the patient and delivery team