

Dear Patient,

As you are well aware, there is a shortage of doctors delivering babies in Quebec. I am personally overwhelmed by requests to provide prenatal care, and labour and delivery care. As such, we have found a creative way of enabling you to have both unrushed, excellent prenatal care and the management of labour and delivery by a specialist at the Jewish General Hospital.

The model that I have developed is a “shared-care” model: I have partnered with two excellent family physicians who will follow you during most of your pregnancy and will return you back to my care about a month before your due date. Drs. Judy Hagshi and Leslie Solomon both have extensive experience in prenatal care and will see you for your first visit before 13 weeks (about 3 months). They will follow you on a regular basis until 36 weeks (about 8 months) at which point I will begin seeing you on a weekly basis. This is normally the time when many of the important decisions about your delivery are made.

Drs. Hagshi, Solomon and I communicate regularly, and if there are any serious problems that require my input during the pregnancy I will be involved. You will have the benefit of a less hurried interaction with your doctor during your prenatal visits and all the obstetrical back-up of the Jewish General Hospital obstetrical group – one of the busiest (and I think the best) in the province. We work as one big team with a 24/7 on-call system. This means you will always be cared for by a specialist during labour, but it may not necessarily be me. My colleagues at the Jewish all function in the same way. I hope you understand the need for this teamwork in order to provide you with safe, quality care.

Once you agree to this innovative and efficient arrangement, my assistant Lydia will take the liberty of forwarding your name, phone number (daytime and evening), and date of last menstrual period to either the VMS Clinic (Dr. Hagshi) or Tiny Tots (Dr. Solomon) **and they will contact you** for an appointment within a week or so. There are some nominal fees for this efficient service charged by both clinics. If you do not hear from them within 2 weeks, please email a reminder to Lydia.

I look forward to being involved in this important and momentous event in your family's life.

Sincerely,

Cleve Ziegler, M. D.