



North Ottawa Community Health System

NOCHS has made the difficult decision, as have other hospitals in our region, to discontinue midwife services. As a community health system, NOCHS has an obligation to provide services that best meet the needs of the broader community.

NOCHS regularly evaluates the viability of all its services to ensure we continue to meet community need as the industry and marketplace change. Factors considered in these evaluations include our ability to provide the best possible care, volume and reimbursement.

Market trends indicate a growing number of patients, who require the skill of an OB/GYN, e.g. women having children later in life, fertility treatments that lead to multiple births, etc. Our OB/GYNs and staff provide the same patient-driven environment and services as midwives, but they also do procedures and perform surgery, when necessary.

This decision was particularly difficult because we fully understand and appreciate how patients feel about their relationship with their midwife. This is why our physicians and staff (in the Women's Health office and within the NOCH Family Birth Unit) will continue to place great emphasis on cultivating personal relationships with women that yield the best, possible patient-driven birth experience. This applies to every patient who comes to us.

Therefore, after lengthy deliberation, NOCHS Administration recommended and the Board of Trustees supported, the very difficult decision to discontinue offering midwifery services, effective Dec. 5, 2014.

For more information about transitioning care or the North Ottawa Women's Health practice, please contact Diane Deiters at (616) 844-4224.