Appendix R
Induction of Labor Algorithm

INDUCTION
Per ACOG guidelines, induction of labor before 41 weeks should only be performed if there is a maternal or fetal medical indication to do so. If 39-41 weeks without a medical indication for induction of labor, do so only with a favorable cervix.

Unfavorable Cervix:
Bishop Score ≤ 8 for Nulliparas, ≤ 6 for Multiparas
(proceed only if medical indication for induction exists)

Favorable Cervix:
Bishop Score ≥ 8 for Nulliparas, ≥ 6 for Multiparas

Mechanical or Pharmacological Cervical Ripening

Initiate Oxytocin

Cervical Change, and Cervix ≥ 6 cm

If successful, follow right side of algorithm (favorable cervix)

No Cervical Change
Repeat with Different Method

No Response
Consider Oxytocin Trial

Home (if appropriate) or Cesarean
(*Note: ACOG guidelines state that failed induction in the latent phase can be avoided by allowing for longer durations of the latent phase, 24 hours or more)

Cervix < 6 cm, UNABLE To AROM and No Cervical Change with 24 Hours Oxytocin
Consider Home if Elective and/or Medically Stable

Failed Induction

AROM and No Cervical Change for 12-18 hours of Oxytocin.
(*Note: 24 hours of oxytocin is preferable if fetal and maternal statuses permit)

Cervix < 6 cm
Continue/Start Oxytocin and Consider ROM

No Change

Proced to Cesarean

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Adapted with permission from Washington State Hospital Association