

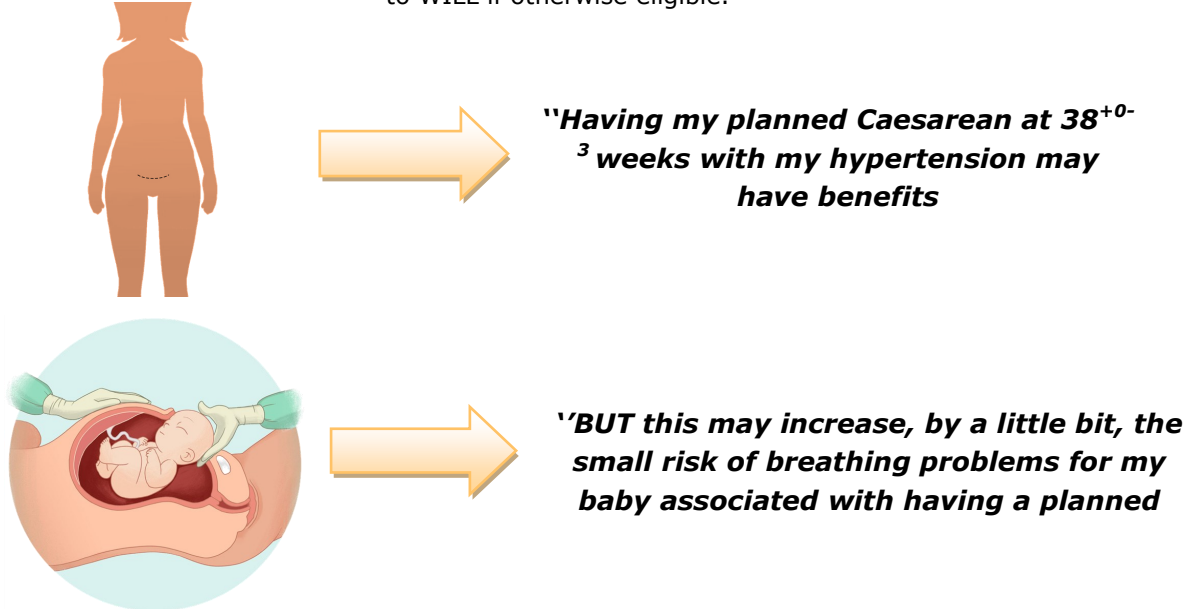
WILL Training page

Information on this page will help you with any discussions you have with women and doctors/midwives caring for them about WILL. We will feature a different topic each month. This month is:

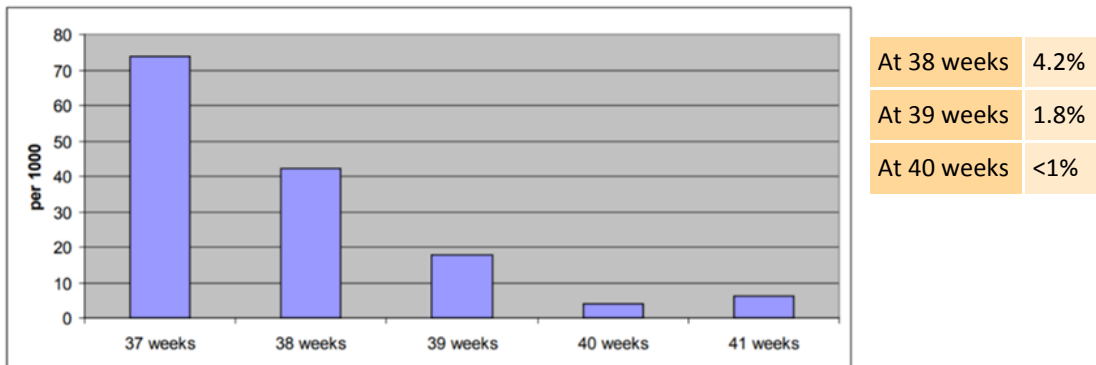
Elective Caesarean

Women with planned Caesareans are eligible for WILL.

Many women will have their elective Caesarean booked for 39⁺⁰⁻⁵. However, as long as the woman and doctor are happy for her to have her Caesarean at either 38⁺⁰⁻³ or at 40 weeks or more, then she can be randomised to WILL if otherwise eligible.



Neonatal respiratory morbidity is slightly more common at 38 weeks than 39 weeks, and at 39 weeks compared with 40 weeks, as shown in the Table and Figure, below, from NICE guidance. (The Figure shows respiratory morbidity per 1000 Caesareans before labour.)



True or False?

Q: NICE guidelines for Caesarean birth recommend administration of antenatal corticosteroids for elective Caesarean until 38⁺⁶ weeks?

A: True. However, there is between-hospital variation in the implementation of this guideline. Some sites give steroids before elective Caesarean only until 34⁺⁶, while others do so until 37⁺⁶ weeks or 38⁺⁶ weeks.

(The reluctance of some sites to prescribe steroids after 34 weeks relates to a high number needed to treat to prevent one case of respiratory morbidity, as well as the potential for steroids to do harm.)

Topic for next newsletter: Pre-eclampsia

