Conditions requiring antenatal referral to an Anaesthetist or the High-Risk Obstetric Anaesthetic Clinic

Women with anticipated anaesthetic problems or medical disorders should be referred to a consultant anaesthetist at an early stage in pregnancy. Appointments for the high risk obstetric clinic (Thursday mornings) can be booked via the ante-natal clinic or the fetal medicine unit. The following conditions require anaesthetic assessment and/or care throughout pregnancy:

**Anticipated anaesthesia related problems:**
- History of difficult / failed intubation, anticipated difficult airway
- Anaphylaxis
- Suxamethonium apnoea
- Malignant Hyperthermia
- Porphyria
- Previous traumatic anaesthetic experience
- Complications after neuraxial blockade
- Spine problems, e.g. congenital abnormalities, previous operations, trauma etc.
- Severe needle phobia
- Women who refuse blood transfusion

**Cardiovascular Disease**
- Congenital heart disease, corrected or uncorrected
- Acquired heart disease: valvular lesions, ischaemic heart disease, cardiomyopathy
- Arrhythmias: congenital or acquired (e.g. complete AV-block)
- Diseases of the aorta (e.g. Marfan’s Syndrome)

**Haematological Disease**
- History of thromboembolism before or during pregnancy
- Hypercoagulability with anticoagulation therapy during pregnancy (e.g. Protein S/C/ATIII deficiency)
- Congenital Coagulopathies (e.g. von Willebrand disease)
- Thrombocytopenic Coagulopathies
- Haemoglobinopathy (e.g. Thalassaemia, Sickle-Cell disease)

**Neurological Disorders**
- Conditions which may interfere with neuroaxial anaesthesia and analgesia
- Neuromuscular disease which may affect breathing (Myasthenia gravis, Muscular dystrophy)
- Other intracranial pathologies (e.g. AV-malformations, BIH, Neoplasm)
- Previous history of stroke or intracranial bleeding
Respiratory Disease
- Severe obstructive/restrictive lung disease (e.g. asthma, pulmonary fibrosis) which require special care during pregnancy and childbirth

Renal Disease
- Impaired renal function/regular dialysis
- Renal Transplant

Endocrinological Disorders
- Acromegaly, Addison’s disease and similar disorders
- Poorly controlled or uncontrolled Diabetes mellitus
- Phaeochromocytoma

Autoimmune Disorders
- Systemic Lupus erythematosus
- Systemic Sclerosis (Scleroderma)
- Antiphospholipid syndrome

Other
- Obesity (e.g. BMI > 45 kg/m2 prior to pregnancy or BMI >40 with significant comorbidity)

Any other condition associated with significant pathophysiology