

DR. DEC IS GIVING UP DELIVERING BABIES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

January 1, 2017

Dear Patients, Colleagues and Allied Professionals:

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my intention to give up my obstetrics privileges at the SCGH site of the Niagara Health System (NHS) as of September 30, 2017.

I have been providing prenatal, labour & delivery and post partum services in the Niagara region for nearly 20 years. I have delivered babies in all 3 major communities; in Niagara Falls for the majority of my career, a few in Welland and more recently in St. Catharines. I have had the honour of bringing many of your children in to the world, sharing that wonderful experience with you, and then watching them grow up.

Although, this has been a truly enjoyable part of my family practice, things have changed significantly since I started delivering back in 1997. In 2013 the NHS opened the doors of a brand new hospital in St. Catharines. With this came new challenges regarding the structure and operation of the Maternity, Obstetrics & Pediatrics Departments. The volume of deliveries is now concentrated in one place, and there is an Obstetrician on site 24/7. Managing patients has posed several challenges for me with transportation/travel/traffic, fluctuations in weather, demands/impact on office schedules amongst other things, which I have navigated for almost 4 years now. As I enter into the later stages of my career, I am looking to new and different professional challenges, which allow me a more regular and balanced schedule.

I would like to thank all the Obstetricians who have taught and guided me, when I asked for their assistance, day or night, no matter what the circumstances. I would also like to mention all the Labour & Delivery Nurses who I have worked alongside over the past 20 years, both at the new St. Catharines Site and especially those GNGH nurses who had my back early on in my career when I was just starting to learn to provide good obstetrical care. I enhanced my skills, gaining knowledge from all of you and our teamwork served my patients well. Finally, I owe a special thank you to my Family Medicine colleagues who have covered for me over the years and have provided my patients with the same care that I would have given, had I been available. My good friend and mentor Dr. Alison MacTavish and more recently Dr. Stephanie Demarco, their dedication to Family Medicine Obstetrics is undeniable.

So, going forward, I will continue to provide Prenatal Care in my office, up until 30 weeks gestation, at which point, I will refer you to an obstetrics provider of your choice.

Thank you

Dr. David Dec