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**Outpatient Induction of Labour using Balloon Catheters**

As induction of labour rates rise, women report poorer inpatient experiences. In 2020, 35.5% of Australian women who gave birth had an induction of labour. Additionally inpatient labour inductions have risen alongside hospital costs, and workload of midwives and obstetric staff.

Evidence indicates outpatient settings for balloon catheter inductions are safe and acceptable for women with low-risk pregnancies. Eligible women require low-risk, singleton pregnancies, cephalic presentation, intact membranes, induced for post-term pregnancies, fetal macrosomia, or gestational diabetes. However, data for high-risk pregnancies remain insufficient.

Outpatient induction of labour using balloon catheters are a feasible option for women, and inpatient facilities. It provides women with the advantage of greater comfort, the ability to relax, rest, and sleep by allowing them to initiate the labour process in a familiar environment, facilitating a more empowering experience.

Women have unique perspectives on what constitutes a safe and comfortable environment. This policy allows women booked for induction of labour to have balloon catheters placed and continue their cervical ripening at home. As a desired option among women, balloon catheter induction is considered a more natural intervention. Being able to experience the initial stages of labour through mechanical dilation and appropriate environments is preferred among women, as it emulates spontaneous early labour. By introducing an outpatient induction of labour using balloon catheters policy to the ACT can enrich women’s induction experiences while addressing staffing and cost efficiency.

Success will be evaluated through qualitative data collection on women’s preferences and experiences, alongside their labour and birth outcomes. The cost-effectiveness and staffing impact of the service will be gathered through quantitative measures.

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