



Evidence-Based Induction of Labor: Optimizing Induction for Better Outcomes

Induction of labor (IOL) is the most common procedure in obstetrics, affecting over 30% of all births. **Reducing IOL duration is an important strategy to improve outcomes for families.**

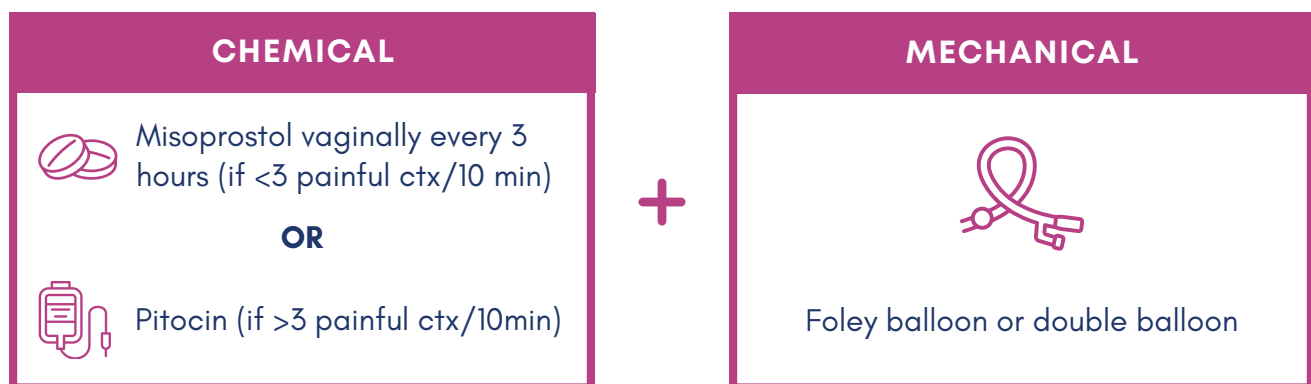
Whether IOL is medically indicated or elective, clinicians should provide the most effective induction procedure. Standardized, evidence-based IOL management leads to better outcomes, including **shorter induction times** and **fewer complications** like cesarean birth, chorioamnionitis, and maternal morbidity.

EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO MANAGE INDUCTION

Two empirically proven techniques should be recommended to all eligible patients undergoing induction:

- 1 Dual Agent Ripening:** Chemical + Mechanical Ripening
- 2 Early Amniotomy:** At or before 4cm dilated, offer amniotomy

For dual agent ripening, **the optimal strategy is to place a balloon at the same time (i.e., within 30 minutes) of starting a chemical agent.**



These recommendations do not replace clinical judgment. Clinicians should always consider the full patient picture and include patients in all decisions.

ADDITIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Membrane Sweep

If feasible at the start of induction or when scheduling an induction, a membrane sweep should be offered.

Frequency of Exams

Checks are based on symptomology and labor progress and should be offered:

- ▶ Every 2-4 hours in early labor
- ▶ Every 1-2 hours in active labor (6+ cm)

Immediate Pushing

Begin pushing as soon as a patient is noted to be fully dilated.

Cessation of Futile Interventions

Stop any interventions that are not effective in induction and reevaluate the clinical picture.

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code to access [OBI's Evidence-Based Induction of Labor Clinical Practice Guide](#) for additional details and references.



Who We Are

The Obstetrics Initiative (OBI) is a statewide Collaborative Quality Initiative transforming maternity care and improving outcomes across Michigan.

With multidisciplinary teams at 65+ hospitals, OBI collects clinically credible data and shares best practices to support better births for all.



Learn More:

obstetricsinitiative.org

Support for OBI is provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network as part of the BCBSM Value Partnerships program. Although Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Obstetrics Initiative work collaboratively, the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of BCBSM or any of its employees.