

## Maternity Dept

The reason for restricting visiting times is to allow patients to have enough rest, recovery time and privacy. To allow Doctors and Midwives time to provide care and treatment to all patients at all times, and to enable cleaning activities to take place in the wards.

**In exceptional circumstances** we recognise that some people may need to visit outside the hours outlined below and this can be discussed with ward staff – please ring before attending.

All enquiries about the patient's condition should be referred to the "named" midwife or midwife in charge of the ward.

Occasionally whilst visiting you may be asked to leave the ward to allow doctors or midwives to provide care and treatment to patients.

## INFECTION CONTROL

Please co-ordinate your visits with friends and family so that there are only 3 people at the bedside at any time. The more visitors a patient has, the higher the risk of bringing infection from the outside.

There will be a hand sanitiser at the entrance to each ward and also on the wards. Please use this before visiting the patients. Ask a midwife or Team Assistant if you are not sure how to use this.

We ask that you do not sit on the patient's bed when visiting as this increases risks of infection to the patient. There are chairs available for each patient's visitors. Please do not attend wards/clinics/PAU in work clothes as this again is to reduce infection risks.

## Handling Baby

We would advise any visitor handling babies to wash hands/use gel provided to reduce the risk of passing on infections to the babies.

**If you have a cough, cold, stomach upset or any other possibly infectious condition, please DO NOT VISIT**

The patient's **own** children are the only children allowed to visit the Unit. They need to be escorted both within the ward and outside. On occasions

visiting may be restricted by such things as infection risks to the child. The midwife in charge will inform you of this on arrival.

## Restaurant facilities for visitors.

There is a restaurant on both sites "Hollies" at DMH opening times, 08.00 – 5.30 pm (Saturday & Sunday 8 am – 2 pm) and "Cofleys" at UHND opening times 07.30 am – 7pm. When the restaurants are closed visitors are very welcome to use the vending machine.

We request that no food or drinks are taken back to the wards with you, as this creates health and safety risks due to spillages on corridor floors.

## Telephone enquiries.

Please try to arrange for birthing partners to keep family & friends up dated on your progress and hospital stay where possible. It is hospital policy that staff on the wards are not allowed to give out information about a patient's progress or condition. If it is not possible for birthing partners to keep family & friends updated please arrange for just one person to phone the ward and staff will be able to pass a message on. This allows staff to spend more time caring for patients and not answering the telephone.

## Mobile Phones

Mobile phones emit signals which may interfere with medical equipment i.e. scanning equipment. We therefore ask you to switch off your mobile phones in the department. However, mobile phones can be used within the hospital main corridor.

## Smoking

For the benefit of all patients and visitors this Trust actively promotes a **NO SMOKING POLICY** and smoking is prohibited in all areas of the hospital, entrances to the hospital and grounds

# Visiting Hours for the Maternity Unit

## Delivery Suite

Birthing partners identified antenatally will be able to attend when women are in labour (no more than 2 birthing partners). There is no waiting area for other friends or relations.

We apologise but there is **NO** routine visiting on the Delivery Suite for other visitors. We ask that patients ensure that their family and friends are aware of the visiting policy to avoid disappointment when they arrive on the ward outside of allocated visiting.

## Antenatal / Postnatal

Husbands / Partners 09.00 a.m until 9 p.m.

Other Visitors 3:30 p.m until 4:30. p.m.

6:30. p.m until 7:30. p.m

- On entering the ward environment, please use the hand sanitise provided or wash hands to reduce the risk of infection.
- 3 persons only per bed
- The only children allowed to visit are the patient's own children. No other children under the age of 12 years are allowed to visit.
- Any difficulties with visiting times please discuss with the Midwife in charge of the ward.
- On entering or leaving the ward, please do not allow other people to enter with you. This is for the security of the mother and baby.

We apologise but no flowers are permitted within the Maternity Unit.

County Durham and Darlington   
NHS Foundation Trust

## University Hospital North Durham & Darlington Memorial Hospital

## Visiting Arrangements For the Maternity Unit

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

Date: April 2016  
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Flesch Reading Ease: 62.1  
Visiting Leaflet C: Forms & Leaflets

