

**Patient
Information**

Partners staying overnight on the Maternity Ward

Introduction

This leaflet provides information for you and your partner about staying overnight with you on the Maternity Ward.

Whilst we welcome overnight partner support the staff are responsible for ensuring the health, safety and dignity of all the mothers and babies on the ward. We kindly ask you and your partner to take 5 minutes to read and take note of the following information.

Overnight support

If you feel there is a specific need for overnight support and a side room is available then your partner or another named support person may be able to stay outside of the current daytime visiting hours. Please discuss your individual circumstances with the midwife caring for you.

If you are the person considering staying overnight to provide support please consider your own emotional wellbeing. Staying overnight can often mean you get very little sleep and may impact on the support you are able to give during the day. If you are tired please go home and get good quality rest so that you can best support your partner the following day.

Partner support can be extremely beneficial and helpful during both the antenatal period and first days of a baby's arrival. If you are staying overnight your role will be to support your partner in addition to the midwifery care she will already receive.

A reclining chair (if available) and a blanket will be provided for your partner's or supporter's comfort.

Side rooms are allocated according to clinical need. You and your partner should be aware that there may be circumstances when it becomes necessary to move you to a 4 bedded bay if another woman has a greater clinical need for a side room. This will mean that your partner or support person will no longer be able to stay.

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Department

**Maternity
Services**

Review due

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Privacy and dignity

The hospital's policy is to ensure the privacy and dignity of all women on the ward.

- Partners must be clothed at all times
- Partners are asked not to wander around the ward at night. Not all women will have a partner staying with them and may not be comfortable with strangers wandering around
- We ask that partners staying overnight to provide support to remain on the ward between the hours of 10:00pm and 07:00am as going in and out of the security doors causes unnecessary disruption on the ward
- Please note that we are a non-smoking Trust and smoking is not permitted anywhere on the hospital site.

Washroom facilities

Your partner will be able to use the en-suite facilities located within your side room.

Security

All property left in your room will be at your own risk. Please do not take your baby out of the ward area at any time unless accompanied by a member of staff. It is our duty to ensure that babies stay with their mothers at all times as part of our security policy.

We reserve the right to decline permission for partners or supporters to stay on the ward at any time if there are significant concerns that they will compromise the physical safety of the mothers, babies or staff on the ward.

Gloucestershire Hospitals operate zero tolerance on violent, disruptive, aggressive or abusive behaviour. Our security team can be called at any time to assist if required.

Anyone who is perceived to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave.

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Health and safety

Women and babies are at increased risk of developing infections following birth. We ask that partners or supporters:

- do not lie or sleep in or on any of the beds
- do not visit the Maternity Unit if they have an illness such as flu, vomiting and diarrhoea. This also applies if they have had contact with someone with these illnesses. All partners and visitors must be symptom free for 48 hours
- use the hand gel when entering and leaving the ward
- wash their hands before and after helping care for the mother or baby
- take any unnecessary items of dirty clothes home so that bags are kept to a minimum and floor space is kept free. This will aid cleaning and prevent accidents.

Food and drink facilities

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide food and drinks for your partner or supporter. Below is listed the places within the hospital where food and drinks can be purchased.

- There is a Costa™ coffee vending machine located in the dining room on the Maternity Ward
- Food and drink vending machines are located by the stairs on the 1st floor of The Women's Centre and in the hospital corridor near the main lifts in the tower block
- Fosters restaurant is located on the ground floor of the tower block and is for use by staff, patients and visitors
- There are 2 Costa™ coffee shops located in the hospital – one just inside the tower block entrance and the other inside the main hospital entrance.

Car parking

The hospital car park is managed by Indigo, an external car parking company. We recommend that you park in the tower car park which runs a system whereby you pay on exit, by either cash, credit or debit card.

For all other on site hospital parking a pay and display system is in place. Please be careful not to go over the time you have paid to park for, or you are likely to receive a penalty which you will be liable to pay.

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Thank you for taking time to read this leaflet. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance during your stay as we are here to help and advise you both on the care of your newborn.

If you have concerns please speak to a member of staff.

Contact information

If you wish to discuss further about staying overnight please contact the Maternity Ward and ask to speak to the midwife in charge.

Maternity Ward

The Women's Centre
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 5520
Open 24 hours

Content reviewed: August 2016