

Transfers to an Obstetric Unit during or shortly following the birth of your baby.

There can be a variety of reasons your midwife may recommend transfer to the obstetric unit (Labour Ward, Aberdeen Maternity Hospital) such as:

- Labour is slower than expected
- For additional monitoring of your baby due to concerns such as changes in your baby's heart rate or the presence of thick meconium (baby's bowel movement) in the amniotic fluid (waters).
- You request further pain relief such as an epidural
- For additional monitoring of you such as, if you have a rising temperature, concerns regarding your blood pressure or excessive bleeding during labour or after the birth
- After the birth you may require transfer if there are any problems delivering your placenta (afterbirth), stitching for more complex perineal trauma, excessive bleeding or if there are concerns about your baby's condition.

Women having their first baby

- The Birthplace study (2011) found that transfer from home or midwifery units is more likely for women expecting their first baby.
- The likelihood of requiring a transfer into an obstetric unit (labour ward) during or shortly after the birth:
 - From home 45%
 - From free standing midwifery unit 36%
 - From alongside midwifery unit 40%



Woman having their second, third or fourth baby

- The Birthplace study (2011) found that for women expecting their second, third or fourth baby, transfer into hospital is less likely.
- For women having their second, third or fourth baby the likelihood of requiring transfer into an obstetric unit (labour ward) during or shortly after the birth:
 - From home: 12%
 - From free standing midwifery unit: 9%
 - From alongside midwifery unit: 13%

How long could a transfer take?

These times are approximate and may vary unexpectedly for example if all ambulances are busy or there are traffic delays.

- **For a non-Urgent Transfer:** An ambulance will usually arrive at the unit or at your home within 1 hour.
- **Emergency:** An ambulance will usually arrive at the unit or your home within 8-15 minutes.



	Distance (Miles)	Urgent Transfer Time
Peterhead Community Maternity Unit	32 miles	45 minutes
Inverurie Community Maternity Unit	15 miles	25 minutes
Midwives Unit Aberdeen Maternity Hospital	N.A	N.A- Minutes from labour ward
Dr Grays Maternity Unit to Aberdeen Maternity Hospital	65 miles	1 hour 25 minutes
Dr Grays Maternity Unit to Raigmore Maternity Unit, Inverness	37 miles	45 minutes

Transferring your baby after birth

In the rare event that your baby requires additional support and neonatal care following the birth, the midwives will provide immediate care for your baby whilst they receive remote support and advice from the neonatal team.

As there are no medical staff based in free-standing midwifery units or at home if your baby requires transfer to Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, this will be arranged by the neonatal team and midwives and will be either supported by a dedicated neonatal transfer team or by a 999 emergency ambulance.

Transfer by dedicated neonatal transfer service provides the opportunity for expert care and stabilisation in transport but may take several hours for this to reach you. 999 ambulance transport can be accessed immediately with baby being cared for by the midwife and paramedic during transport. The midwives will liaise directly with the neonatal team in Aberdeen to get advice as to which method of transfer is recommended for your baby.

