

Person Centred Visiting in Maternity Services

We are beginning to return to Person Centred Visiting within our inpatient maternity wards, which also includes our Midwifery Led Units.

This provides an opportunity for more than two visitors per day. This means that there will be individual discussions taking place between women and their care team. These conversations will take into consideration, the environment of the clinical area and the number of people that can safely be accommodated within that area. We still need to be mindful of safe spacing within our clinical areas and in multi-bedded areas it is likely that there will be a maximum of two at a bedside at any one time, with swapping of visitors to allow the safe spacing to remain.

We have been listening to the feedback that has been provided by families over the last two years and we have understood that visitors are very important, but it was clear that many equally value time together as an immediate family unit. To achieve this, we would be keen to protect a certain part of the day, between 12 mid-day to 2pm. The aim of this time is to support parents, or an individual important to you, to have uninterrupted time with the baby. This would be a time where skin to skin contact can be promoted and for feeding to become established. This provides families the opportunity to further develop a close and loving relationship with their baby, which is important for health and wellbeing. Siblings are not to be forgotten in this important time, and they are also welcome during this period.

All visitors are reminded of the part they have to play in minimising the risk from COVID-19 – and other infections. They should not visit if they are at all unwell. This includes things like vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as well as the symptoms of any respiratory infection (coughing, sneezing, fever, sore throat, muscle aches). Visitors to hospitals and care homes are able to order free LFD test kits from the GOV.uk website and testing is encouraged.

Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks are available at the entrances to all hospitals, and these should be used instead of fabric face coverings. Frequent hand hygiene should be carried out, either with hand gel or water and soap. If visitors are asked to wait before entering the bay/room in the clinical ward, we ask them to do so safely and minimise any congregating at entrances etc.

This guidance remains under regular review by the NHSG Visiting Group.