

Role of Birth Partners

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Women & Children's Services**

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your role as a birth partner.



Information for patients and visitors

Introduction

This information leaflet gives you information about labour and guidance about the role of the birth partner and how to give support through early labour (latent phase) and established labour and the birth.

For many women and their partners and families pregnancy and giving birth can be a very scary but exciting time in their lives. It is important that the woman and the birth partners are prepared for what lies ahead on a journey to having a baby.

In hospital, up to two birth partners are allowed in the Labour area, once labour is confirmed. This enables them to provide support throughout the labour and birth.

Labour Assessments

When you attend the Ward for a labour assessment it is important to ring your team at DPOW or the Central Delivery Suite at SGH first, so the midwife can assess what is happening and advise where you need to be seen if this is appropriate. When you attend the Ward it is important to bring your hand held records with you.

The midwife will explain the procedure and perform an assessment and explain her findings. If you are not in labour or in the latent phase you will be sent home.

Latent Phase of Labour

The latent phase of labour is where the women may begin to have some irregular contractions and the body is preparing for labour. The latent phase can go on for a few days. During this time it is important to encourage your partner to eat & drink little and often, to keep hydrated and maintain her energy levels. You can encourage her to take regular pain relief, which the midwife will

advise about. Also to take plenty of warm baths which will help relieve the pain. It is also important to suggest she rests and sleeps as much as she can.

Labour

When you are in labour, the role of the birth partners is to be there for the woman to provide emotional support in the form of encouragement, praise, reassurance and listening.

To be an advocate in which the woman's wishes are represented.

To give physical support by rubbing the back, using cool compresses on the face, assisting with changes in position.

Keep other relatives updated as necessary mobile phones can be used in designated areas as needed.

If two birth partners are present it is very important that at least one birth partner stays with the woman throughout the labour and birth so she receives good support.

Birth partners are advised to bring snacks with them and wear loose comfortable clothing as the delivery rooms are very warm at times.

At Diana Princess of Wales Hospital (DPOW) one birth partner is able to stay overnight following the birth. The staff will offer advice about this. At Scunthorpe Hospital one birth partner can visit from 9 am to 9pm after the birth, however there is no facility to allow birth partners to stay overnight. There is also no designated visiting on the Central Delivery Suite at SGH.

It is important to keep rooms clutter free and tidy; this can be helped by not bringing in big bulky items such as car seats.



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Birth partners should be aware that they cannot swap around and only those birth partners identified initially will be allowed to stay with the woman for security reasons. All ward areas are secure locked and it is important that birth partners stay on the unit and if they do have to leave the unit for any reason should not hold main doors open or allow others onto the unit.

The Trust has a strict Non - Smoking Policy and smoking is not permitted anywhere within the Hospital.

Visiting Times

Ward 26 SGH visiting hours

No designated visiting on Central Delivery Suite

14.00 – 16.00

18.30 – 20.00

Maternity Wards DPOW

14:00 – 16:00

18:30 – 20:00

Parking

On-site parking is available. There is a charge for this.

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:

nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening /



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abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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Grimsby
01472 874111

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Goole & District Hospital
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Date of issue: April, 2015

Review Period: April, 2018

Author: Consultant Midwife

IFP-697 v1.1

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