

Staying with your partner overnight

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Maternity

Introduction

We welcome partners on our antenatal and transitional care ward overnight who want to provide help and support for women and birthing people during their stay. If you would like to stay overnight, please follow the guidelines set out below. You will be required to complete an agreement. If you have any questions about this information, please speak to your midwife.

Infection control

- Keeping your hands clean helps prevent the spread of infections. Please use the hand sanitiser at the entrance to every ward when entering and leaving. Please wash your hands before and after you help care for mother and baby.
- If you have a cold, flu or vomiting and diarrhoea, please do not come into the hospital. Call in and ask to speak to the midwife in charge.
- Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave the ward.
- Children are not allowed to stay overnight.

Safety

- You will be asked to sign an agreement that will be discussed with you if you wish to stay overnight.
- You will also need to sign a register so that we know you are present on the ward in case there is a fire or any other emergency in which we need to evacuate the ward. If the fire alarm sounds, please follow instructions given by the ward staff. Do not try to leave the ward. You will be given a wrist band to easily identify you.
- Do not take your baby out of the ward at any time.
- Please do not walk around the ward at night, to respect other people's privacy. We ask that to minimise disruption, please do not leave the ward between 9pm and 8am. unless there is an emergency.
- If you are a smoker or vape, please do not leave the ward or hospital building to smoke or vape between 9.00pm and 8.00am. Please note that we are a smoke free Trust.
- If you do smoke or vape, please ask for further guidance from the midwives or the maternity support workers regarding minimising the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.

- Due to our limited space, we cannot offer you a bed or shower. You can use the chair by the bed to rest if you wish. Please do bring your own blanket to assist with comfort overnight. Please do not sleep in the bed with your partner as the beds are not designed for, nor safe, for two people.
- If there is an emergency involving your partner or baby that requires immediate medical attention, please stay calm and let the staff attend to your partner and baby. It would be helpful if you could stay in the waiting area until the emergency is over. A member of staff will provide information and support afterwards.
- We operate a zero-tolerance policy on violent, disruptive or aggressive behaviour and security will remove anyone acting aggressively.
- We reserve the right to deny you access to stay on the ward at any time or if there are significant concerns that will compromise the safety of women, birthing people, babies and staff.

Dignity/noise

- Partners are asked to remain fully dressed, with the curtains drawn overnight to protect the dignity and privacy of staff members and women/ birthing people on the ward.
- Please respect others whilst on the ward and keep noise to a minimum so other people can get the rest they require.
- We ask that you do not use mobile phones between 9pm and 8am. During these hours, please keep phones on night mode and mute to reduce disturbances to other women, birthing people and babies.
- Please refrain from live streaming or recording on the ward.

General

- Each staff member on the ward often have up to eight women/ birthing people to care for, so you may have to wait for a few minutes before we answer any call bells. Please bear with us.
- If you need something, please speak to the midwives or maternity support workers on the ward.
- Food and drink will not be provided for yourself, but this can be brought in from home, please note we do not have heating facilities. Alternatively, you may wish to visit levels 0 & 5 where outlets provide food and drink during the day. For 24 hours a day, food and drink purchases, please visit level 5,

Accessibility

- If you have any accessibility requirements whilst staying with your partner, please do discuss these with the midwife so that we can support your needs where possible during your stay.
- If you provide care to the woman/ birthing person who is staying with us, due to disability, ill health or a mental health condition, please do ask the midwife or maternity support worker about the 'Essential Companion Access Card'. You may also ask to speak to the Patient Experience Team to discuss this further.

- Parking for Blue Badge Scheme users is free. To qualify for free parking, please park in a blue badge bay and display your blue badge. When you are ready to leave, please press and hold the telephone symbol on the exit barrier machine and show your blue badge to the camera.

Parking

Parking permits are not available from the ward. Please park in the public parking areas and follow the instructions displayed on the parking meters. For further information please refer to the Trust website or ask a member of staff.

Spiritual Care

- The spiritual care centre is located on Level 5 and is open from 7am to 10pm. Please discuss with a member of staff if you wish to access the centre outside of these hours.
- Please refer to the Trust website or ask a member of staff for further details.

Internet Access

To access free Wi-Fi, please log into NHS WiFi.

Questions or feedback

- If you have any concerns or worries about your partner's or baby's welfare, please speak with the midwife in charge, ward manager or matron.
- We welcome any feedback about your experience as a partner staying overnight.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service, and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any suggestions or comments about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff, ask to speak to the ward manager or matron or contact the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) on 0121 507 5892.

Alternatively, you can Email PALS at: **swbh.patient-experience@nhs.net**

If you would like to see someone, please call to arrange an appointment.

A member of Local Resolution Team will aim to get back to you within two working days.

To make a complaint, you can send it in writing to: Complaints Department, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Sandwell Health Campus, Lyndon, West Bromwich, B71 4HJ Phone: 0121 507 5836 10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday.

Alternatively, you can Email at : **swbh.patient-experience@nhs.net**

Alternative formats This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: **imperial.communications@nhs.net**

Contact Details

Switchboard: 0121 554 3801

Ward C4: 0121 507 4701

Ward A4: 0121 507 4702

Neonatal Unit: 0121 507 5100

Further Information

For more information please contact your Community Midwife.

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our website www.swbh.nhs.uk, follow us on X @SWBHnhs and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs.

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