

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- 1) During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have you introduced new policies or practices to any of your services relating to maternity care (antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal) which either restrict or completely prohibit partners/parents/birth partners (referred to as 'partners' from now on) attending planned or unplanned care because of COVID-19? (Y/N) Yes

If yes, please go to Q2. If no, please go to Q6.

- 2) If restrictions have been introduced, please provide brief details of the policy (e.g. number of partners allowed to attend, length of time partners are allowed to attend for, other relevant policy details) against the relevant area of practice below:

- Antenatal scans **Partners able to attend for the Anomaly (20 week) scan only**
- Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments) **no partners at appointments unless undertaken at home**
- Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements) **No partners unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been agreed by a senior midwife**
- Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour **Visiting for women who are staying in hospital for 1 hours a day by their birth partner**
- Intrapartum care – homebirth **No restriction in place but all attendees need to be asymptomatic of Covid 19**
- Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit **N/ A – no unit**
- Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit **N/A – no unit**
- Intrapartum care – consultant led unit **1 birth partner who is asymptomatic and not self isolating once the lay is in established labour, unless prior agreement for extenuating circumstances**
- Intrapartum care – **delivery in theatre 1 birth partner who is asymptomatic for Covid 19**
- Postnatal care – **post birth and on the postnatal ward 1 birth partner for 1 hour a day if the woman is staying in**
- Community postnatal clinics **N/A**

- 3) Do restrictions in place, or related policies/practice, include provision for extenuating circumstances (e.g. mental health conditions, disabilities, pre-term birth, or following deliveries with complications) (Y/N) Yes

If yes, please provide brief details.

These are agreed individually with a senior midwife and are documented in the notes examples so far are, severe anxiety (2 birth partners), doula/ private midwife attending, guide dog attending on the labour ward when in labour if transferred from a planned homebirth

- 4) Please indicate (Y/N) whether the restrictions detailed above were informed by:

- Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body) – **YES G/RCM and national guidance about Covid 19**
- Engagement with service users – **MVP's in development**
- Other (please provide brief details) – **Feedback from the Facebook pages, complaints and verbal on the ward.**

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- 5) Are these restrictions still in place (Y/N)? If not, please provide the date/an estimate of the date when they were removed.

Yes, no date as yet reviewed weekly and waiting national guidance on the way forward.

- 6) Please provide details of any firm plans in place to introduce new restrictions on partner attendance at maternity services (e.g. in the event of a local lockdown, in the event of a major 2nd wave).

This will have to assessed at the time, and decisions made in line with national guidance.