

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 25 August 2020.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

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?**

Yes

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) in the relevant section(s) of the table below.**

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document
Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document

Intrapartum care - homebirth	No restrictions on birth partner being in attendance at home
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	N/A – we do not have an MLU
Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit	N/A – we do not have an MLU
Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	Partner could attend Theatre unless a GA was performed. This is our normal practice
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	See attached Maternity Visiting Restrictions Document
Community postnatal clinics	No partners attending visits

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). If yes, please provide brief details.**

Yes, there is provision for extenuating circumstances with individual situations being reviewed and approved by the executive team.

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

● **Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body)**

Yes, RCOG and RCM

● **Engagement with service users**

Yes, by Head of midwifery advocating women's concerns about restricted visiting

● **Other (please provide brief details)**

N/A

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

The restrictions have been updated (Please see updated visiting restrictions July 2020 attached)

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).**

No additional plans in place at present

You are advised that this information is provided in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is for your personal use. Any re-use of this information will be subject to copyright and the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations (1st July 05) and authorisation from Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust will be required. In the event of any re-use, the information must be reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading manner.

If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

<p>Any re-use of this information will be subject to the 'Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations' and best practice.</p>
