

Ref no: 096250820
From: Academic Clinical Fellow
Date: 25/08/20
Subject: Maternity services restrictions on partner attendance during COVID-19

REQUEST & RESPONSE

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)

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

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	Partners allowed for fetal medicine scans. Partners allowed for dating and anomaly scan when there has been a previous poor pregnancy outcome.
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	No partners allowed
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment)	No partners allowed

for reduced foetal movements)	
Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	No Partners allowed
Intrapartum care - homebirth	Partners for all birth
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	Not applicable – we do not have a freestanding MLU
Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit	1 birth partner allowed once labour established until post-delivery and transfer to home environment/postnatal ward
Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	1 birth partner allowed once labour established until post-delivery and transfer to home environment/postnatal ward
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	1 birth partner allowed during delivery in theatre until transfer to postnatal ward
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	No Partners allowed
Community postnatal clinics	No Partners allowed

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 – arrangements can be made for women who are deemed to be vulnerable and would benefit from having a birth partner present.

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

- Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body)
- Engagement with service users
- Other (please provide brief details) – trust directive

Trust directive.

RCOG guidance advises that Trusts should review arrangements for visitors locally.

Discussions also held across the Local Maternity Systems with other units.

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

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).

The Trust continually reviews national and local guidance and will respond accordingly.