

Maternity Unit Patient Information



The Information Standard

Certified Member

Information

If you need this information in large print, easy read, on audiotape or in another language please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail pals@dchft.nhs.uk

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Maternity Lodging Scheme

Introduction

This leaflet is for women with babies in our Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). In normal circumstances, once you have begun to recover physically from the birth of your baby you would go home. This usually happens anytime from a few hours after the birth to 2 or 3 days later.

However, as your baby is not ready to be discharged, we understand that being parted from him or her can be very stressful and upsetting. We really want to help, so we have developed the "Maternity Lodging Scheme".

This leaflet explains how the Maternity Lodging Scheme works, what you can expect from it and how to access it.

The Lodging Scheme

The Maternity Lodging Scheme provides a way for mums to stay near their babies while they are on SCBU. It is a way of having somewhere to sleep in the hospital, rather than having to travel in from home every day to be with your baby. It means that you are able to be involved in your baby's care as much as possible including during the night.

You will not become a lodger until you are well enough to be discharged home. This might be the day after the birth or several days later.

The scheme means that you can have a bed, a locker and a bathroom to use on the Maternity Unit. However, you will not be a patient on the Maternity Unit. You will be 'lodging' on the Maternity Unit to be near your baby.

This means that no meals will be provided by the hospital but you will be able to store a small amount of food in the fridge in the Day Room on the Maternity Unit and you can use the microwave to heat meals. You will also be able to make hot drinks and use the ice from the icemaker. Of course, you are also welcome to use the hospital restaurant.

Please turn over:

It also means that if you are taking any medicines, these will be given to you to keep just as if you were at home. It will be your responsibility to take them as prescribed. You will be provided with a safe place to keep the medicines.

The Maternity Lodging Scheme is available until your baby is four weeks (28 days) old. If you think your baby is going to be on SCBU for longer than this, please talk to the midwife looking after you. Occasionally we are able to extend the scheme but this request will need to be discussed with a member of the Maternity management team.

If you would like to make use of this scheme, rather than to go home when you are fit for discharge from the Maternity Unit, please talk to a midwife to arrange it.

What you can expect from the Maternity Lodging Scheme

- To be able to stay with your baby in SCBU and to sleep in a bed on the Maternity Unit
- To have access to a bathroom and shower on the Maternity Unit
- To have somewhere safe to store any medicines that you may be taking
- For the room that you stay in to be kept clean
- To have your sheets changed at least once a week
- To have the use of the microwave, fridge and other facilities in the Day Room
- To be seen by a midwife for an examination as often as you would if you were at home
- To be able to have 2 visitors at a time during Maternity visiting hours. These are 3:30pm to 4:30pm and 7pm to 8pm
- To remain a 'lodger' on the Maternity Unit until your baby is 4 weeks (28 days) old, if this is required

What you cannot expect from the Maternity Lodging Scheme

- To have a room to yourself. You will almost certainly be expected to share a room with at least one other woman in the same situation as yourself
- To have food and drinks provided
- To have medicines dispensed by the Maternity Unit staff
- To have visitors outside Maternity Unit visiting hours or to have more than 2 visitors at a time
- To have your partner or a family member stay with you overnight (in exceptional circumstances, this may be possible but needs to be discussed with the midwife in charge)

Further Information

Maternity Unit
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