

## Guidance for partners staying overnight on the maternity unit

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<b>Key Documents Owner/Lead:</b>	Dr Hillman	Consultant Obstetrician
<b>Approved by:</b>	Maternity Governance Meeting	
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### Key Amendments

Date	Amendments	Approved by

### Introduction

Increasingly women and their partners are requesting the opportunity to stay overnight to support each other during induction of labour, early labour and following delivery. The aim of partners staying is to provide extra support for women who require it.

The Fathers Institute released “Reaching Out: Involving fathers in maternity care” (RCM, RCOG, DH 2011), highlighted partners staying overnight, as a way of encouraging new fathers to bond with their babies in the first hours after delivery.

### Details Of Guideline

Unfortunately the layout of the inpatient wards and the wide verity of reasons for hospital admission mean it is not possible for every woman to have her partner stay overnight. Therefore it is at the discretion of the midwife in charge of the shift to decide who can stay, taking into consideration individual clinical need, for example:

Women who have had a traumatic delivery (consider women who have had an emergency section late in the day or during the night)

Women who are or have been very unwell and need extra support

Women whose baby is unwell

Women who emotionally need additional support from their partners

Women undergoing induction of labour/ need additional support with early labour pain

**This list is not exhaustive**

Partners should be made aware that there is no bed available a chair and blanket will be provided and where possible they will be offered a side room with en-suite facilities. If multiple women all request their partners to stay For example: during induction of labour consider making one bay available for this use. Partners should be asked to stay within the room/behind the curtain as much as possible and to remain suitably clothed at all times. The opportunity to stay is usually for one night.

- While staying overnight with women in early labour partners will receive advice on how they can support their partners
- While staying overnight with post natal women partners will receive advice in all areas of baby care ie nappy changing, use of skin to skin
- Partners are welcome to use the hot drinks machine but to visit the canteen/vending machines for food
- Partners will still be liable for car parking charges
- All property is left at their own risk

All staff and inpatients must be made aware that there are men present on the ward at night.

There is an information leaflet available.