



Enhanced maternal care for bereaved mothers on Labour Ward at University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB)

Welcome to enhanced maternal care on the Labour Ward at UHB

In this area, you will be monitored more closely than in the other areas of maternity.

What is enhanced maternal care?

We can deliver complex, specialised care with specific equipment and monitoring to better respond to your needs. Specially trained midwives will look after you and work closely with the doctors and anaesthetists, reviewing your plan of care on a daily basis. You may also be seen by nurses from the critical care outreach team. We will ensure your health needs are met, including managing your pain and supporting your emotional needs.

You will have a midwife who will be responsible for no more than two ladies who require enhanced care.

Midwives in this area have undertaken additional training in enhanced maternal care.

Why do you need enhanced maternal care?

Your reasons for needing enhanced care could be a pregnancy-related problem, or a medical problem which has occurred outside of pregnancy.

Examples of these may be related to:

- The heart
- Bleeding
- Diabetes
- Blood pressure
- The kidneys
- Infection
- Breathing or the lungs
- Neurological (the brain)

Pregnancy loss and bereavement support while receiving enhanced maternal care

Care will be tailored to your specific wishes, and this will be discussed and planned with your midwife.

Having enhanced maternal care will not affect you spending time and making memories with your baby. Your midwife and the specialist bereavement team will support you with this.

You can contact the specialist bereavement team anytime for support on 0121 424 2088.

How long will you need to stay with us in enhanced maternal care?

The time in enhanced care may range from a few hours to a few days. Your birth partner can stay with you during this time. Because you need time to rest and recover, we may limit the number of other visitors.

To assist with your recovery, we may ask you to:

- Rest and sleep
- Start moving around as soon as you are able to
- Practice breathing exercises
- Perform leg exercises
- Wear antithrombotic/compression stockings (you may also need injections to help prevent blood clots)

What happens when you are transferred out of the enhanced maternal care area?

When you are well enough, the team caring for you will make the decision to transfer you to the Eden/Snowdrop suite, to continue personalised bereavement care. We will aim to do this as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can ask for the advanced clinical practice midwife, or an enhanced maternal care midwife. Before you go home, you will be reviewed by the postnatal ward doctor.

Department address and contact information:

If you feel you would like to speak to somebody about your experience in the enhanced care area once you have left, please contact us.

Advanced clinical practitioner in enhanced maternal care

Telephone number: 0121 424 2000 (bleep 8386)

