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Ref: FOI2020/7025

Date Received: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Response Due: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

## INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

### You asked:

- 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**

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

- 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.**

<b>Type of service</b>	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).
<b>Antenatal scans</b>	Partners are not allowed to attend scans at present. This is currently under review by the Sonography service and the outcome is expected imminently. If favourable the partner will be allowed back into the scan room providing safe distancing is in place and the appropriate PPE precaution measures are taken.

<b>Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)</b>	The majority of antenatal booking appointments are done virtually this is by phone at present but in the process of getting Attend Anywhere linked up to Community Midwives lap tops. ( do not have exact figures but this is approximately 90% of women) The exception to this is high risk women and BAME women and any women where there are known safeguarding concerns. All other antenatal contacts have been returned to face to face appointments but the partner is requested to stay outside at present.
<b>Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)</b>	Any women with reduced fetal movements always seen. Maternity Triage is available for women to contact for advice. The woman's partner is not able to attend Maternity Triage with her at present, however if in labour they will be allowed to accompany the woman. if any concerns are identified they will be able to come into the unit
<b>Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour</b>	Birth partner only.
<b>Intrapartum care - homebirth</b>	Continued as normal following a risk assessment.
<b>Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit</b>	N/A
<b>Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit</b>	N/A
<b>Intrapartum care – consultant led unit</b>	2 named Birth partners only (second birth partner from when established in labour) no swapping allowed.
<b>Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre</b>	Birth partner only.( No change)
<b>Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward</b>	1 named Birth partner only – limited to 2 hours visiting

<b>Community postnatal clinics</b>	There are currently -No postnatal clinics in place. The community primary home visit is face to face as is the day 5 new-born screening visit. Discharge from community care is virtual unless there are any concerns; the woman is high risk or is of BAME.

**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) Yes.**

**If yes please provide brief details.**

Each case assessed on an individual basis and extenuating circumstances will always be considered.

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

- **Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body) - Yes**
- **Engagement with service users - Yes**
- **Other (please provide brief details) – Yes – Greater Manchester Network**

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

Face to face community antenatal care has resumed except for bookings which continue to be undertaken by phone. (as detailed above)

Visiting restrictions remain the same however this is currently being reviewed and is subject to ongoing review.

Scans remain the same at present but the plan is to allow partners in within the next 2 weeks however if sensitive information is needed to be given support is allowed.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> wave).**

Plans would be to return to initial policies and practices.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Luxon" followed by a small dash.

Allison Luxon  
Deputy Chief Nurse

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at: