Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Cotswold Maternity Unit
Chipping Norton
What is the Cotswold Maternity Unit (CMU)?
The CMU is a midwifery-led unit. This means it is a place for women, who are likely to have straightforward pregnancies, to have their babies. It is staffed by highly skilled midwives and maternity support workers. It is smaller, more home-like and much calmer than a busy hospital.

“You are more likely to be looked after by a midwife you have got to know during your pregnancy”

What is special about the Cotswold Maternity Unit?
The CMU is a purpose-built centre. It has two birth rooms, each of which has a birthing pool and an en-suite shower room. The rooms also contain bean bags, birth balls and other equipment to help you feel comfortable and secure. The post-natal rooms are also en-suite and there is a spacious lounge which may also be available to you and your birth partners to use during labour.

As well as use of the pool for labour or birth, the unit can offer you massage and aromatherapy by some of the midwives who are also qualified massage therapists.

The CMU has a team of experienced midwives based in Chipping Norton. They are supported by colleagues from the community midwife teams in Banbury, Bicester and Witney enabling the unit to provide care during births 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“The unit has been awarded the Global UNICEF Baby Friendly Award for the care and support the unit provides to new mothers with breast feeding”

Can I change my mind?
We know that most expectant parents will have anxieties about the birth. Most births are very straightforward and supported by midwives, even in hospital units. If you come to the CMU in labour and we think you should be seen by a doctor, we have procedures to transport you to our medical colleagues at the Horton General Hospital or John Radcliffe Hospital. You can also change your mind and request a transfer to hospital if you wish.
“Research shows that women who have one-to-one support from midwives during birth and who are in a more homely atmosphere labour better, request less pain relief and are more satisfied with their births”

Who can have a baby at the CMU?

Because the CMU is a midwifery-led unit, it can offer a service to women who have straightforward pregnancies and who are likely to give birth normally.

This means women:

• between 37 and 42 weeks pregnant when labour starts
• having a single baby
• where previous babies have been born vaginally
• with no medical conditions for mother or baby which might affect the birth.
“Our midwives are skilled in helping women give birth with as little ‘high tech’ help as possible”

If you fall outside those guidelines but still wish to consider having your baby at the CMU please contact a Supervisor of Midwives (details overleaf) to discuss your options.
Frequently asked questions

It’s my first baby – can I give birth at the CMU?

Yes! If you meet our criteria you are very welcome as a first-time mother. The home-like atmosphere and one-to-one support from experienced midwives can be very reassuring to women labouring for the first time.

I don’t live in Chipping Norton – can I still come to the CMU?

Many of our women come from around the county and further afield. Please discuss your options with your own community midwife if you are from outside our catchment area.

Can I have a look around?

We strongly recommend you come and look around the unit. We offer tours on Saturday afternoons. Please phone the unit to book a place on a tour or email:

chippingnortonmidwives@ouh.nhs.uk

Because we value women’s privacy during birth we may have to change tour times or dates if someone is in labour.

I’m already booked somewhere else...

If you’d like to have your baby with us, speak to your community midwife when you next see her.
Cotswold Maternity Unit
Cotswold Maternity Unit
Russell Way, Off London Road, Chipping Norton
OX7 5AU

Cotswold Maternity Unit: 01608 648222
Bicester Midwives: 01869 243763
Banbury Midwives: 01295 229190
Witney Midwives: 01993 708742

Supervisor of Midwives, 01865 741166
John Radcliffe Hospital

www.ouh.nhs.uk/cmubus stop

PARKING

There is free parking at the Cotswold Maternity Unit