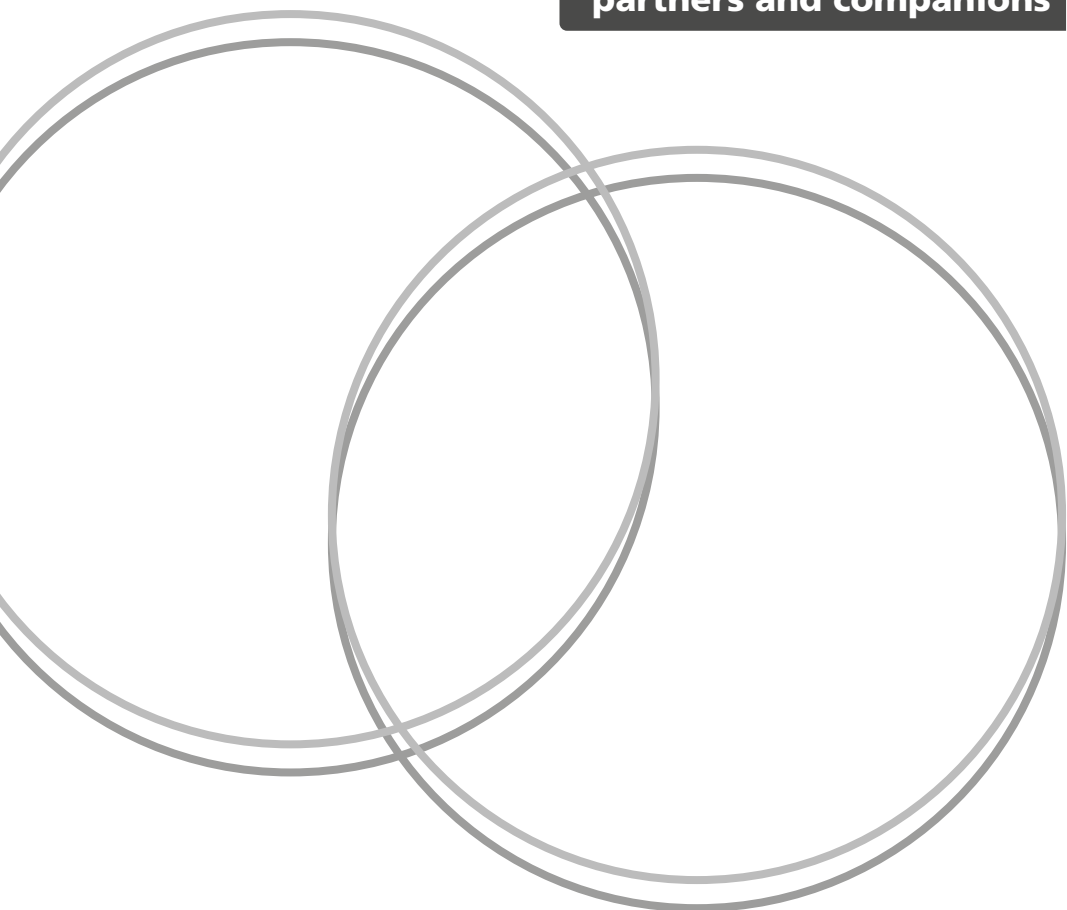


Supporting your partner during their stay on Level 6 Maternity Ward

**Information for birthing
partners and companions**



Thank you for staying to help

It is important for you to read and understand the information in this leaflet if you are staying with your partner/friend/relative.

Staying overnight

- Birth partners are invited to stay overnight in ward side rooms on Level 6 and within the induction of labour bay.
- While we welcome birth partners to stay overnight whenever possible, please be aware that such arrangements require staff approval and will be dependent on the situation at the time. Accommodation cannot always be guaranteed.
- To support a positive birthing experience, overnight stays are permitted if you can provide practical help to your partner, aiding family bonding and reducing anxiety. If you are overtired or have health issues, we advise against staying overnight.
- Children are not allowed to stay overnight.

Infection Prevention and Control

For clear safety and infection prevention reasons, we cannot permit you to stay on the ward if:

- You are COVID positive, experiencing COVID symptoms, have a cold, flu, or diarrhoea and vomiting.
- You are believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

We are responsible for the health and safety of everyone here and must follow local policies such as infection control, fire safety, and protecting expectant parents. Therefore, **we ask you to agree to the following points if you wish to stay with your partner:**

- Do not share a bed with your partner or sleep on the floor.
- If you or your family members have an illness like a cold, flu, or vomiting and diarrhoea, please do not visit to help prevent infection from spreading.
- Please wash your hands regularly and use the alcohol gel provided.

Facilities

We are pleased to provide rooms with pull-down beds, as well as specific toilets and bath/showers for birth partners. While meals and snacks are not available for birth partners, tea, coffee, and water are provided.

On the John Radcliffe Hospital site, you'll find an M&S, WHSmith, Pret a Manger, and a canteen with hot food. Additional shops and cafes are just a short walk away in Headington.

General conduct

- You will need to sign in and out each time you enter or leave the ward so we can account for you during emergencies like a fire.
- If the fire alarm sounds, please follow the instructions given by ward staff. Please do not attempt to leave the ward without staff guidance.
- Please wear shoes/slippers (non-slip) and do not walk around in bare feet or socks.
- We request that you do not wander around the ward at night and do not leave the ward between 10pm and 8am. Not all birthing people will be able to have their birth partners stay and may find strangers wandering around uncomfortable or intimidating.
- Please be reminded that the Trust has a strict no smoking policy.
- If your partner is involved in an emergency, please remain calm and let the staff handle the situation as required.
A staff member will offer information and support when appropriate.
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust operates a Zero Tolerance Policy on violent, disruptive, and aggressive behaviour. It is a criminal offence to cause a nuisance or disturbance on NHS premises.
- Please do not sleep in the bed with your partner. The beds are not designed or safe for 2 people. Please use the pull-down bed or chair provided. If you need additional sheets/blankets, please ask a member of staff.
- Birth partners are advised to remain fully dressed while on the ward. We wish to protect the dignity and privacy required by everyone present including staff members.

- Please keep noise levels to a minimum and do not use mobile phones or handheld devices that are noisy in the day or at night-time. This aids rest and sleep.
- Please bring your own overnight bag and toiletries.
- Our staff consistently place a high priority on providing quality care. Although immediate availability is not always possible, staff are committed to responding to your needs promptly as they can.
- If you have any concerns or worries regarding your partners or baby's welfare, please ask to speak with the midwife in charge.
- If help is required urgently, please use the emergency call bell which you and your partner will be shown during your orientation to the ward
- Free or discounted parking isn't available for overnight stays.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

We welcome any feedback about your stay/time with us on the ward.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: Level 6 Ward Manager

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



We would like to thank the Oxfordshire Maternity Voices Partnership for their contribution in the development of this leaflet.

Making a difference across our hospitals

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