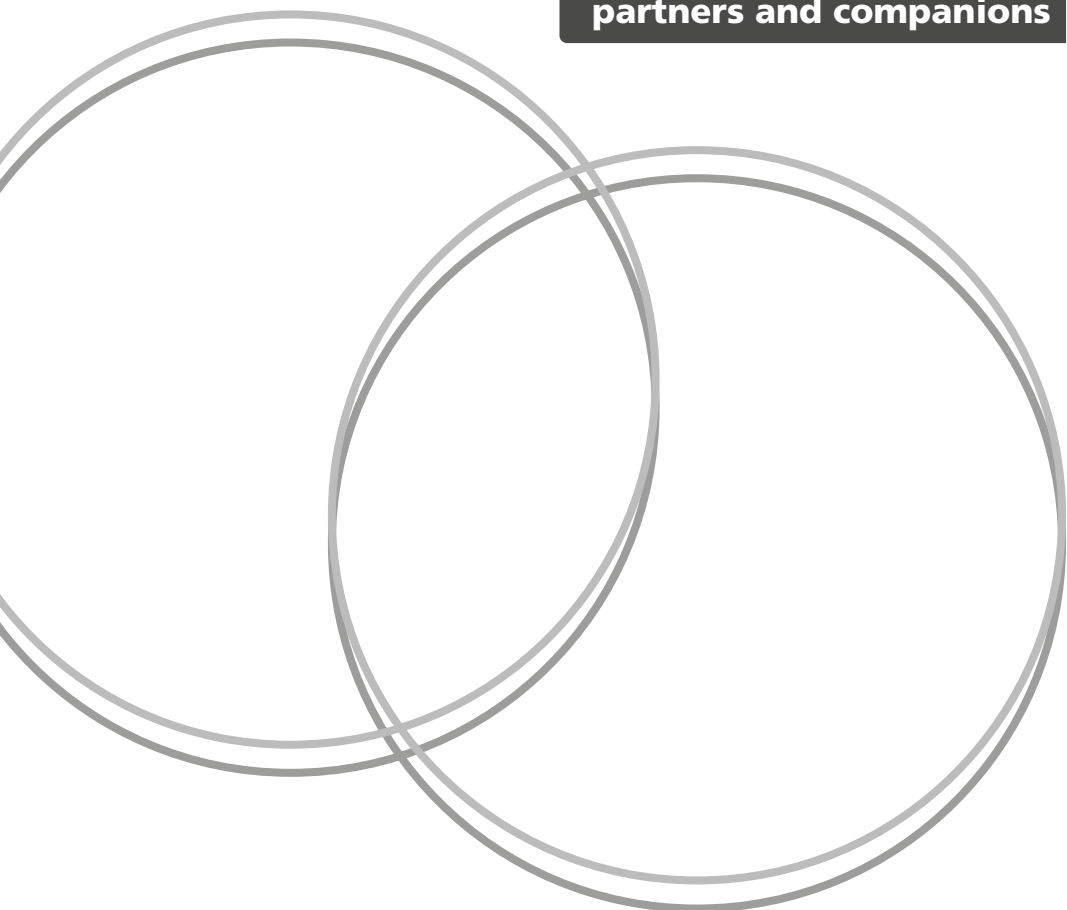




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Supporting your partner overnight

Information for birthing partners and companions



Level 6 Maternity ward

Thank you for staying to help

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

Gender inclusive language in OUH Maternity and Perinatal Services:

- This leaflet uses the terms woman, women and mother throughout. These terms should be taken to include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant. Similarly, where the term parent(s) is used, this should be taken to include anyone who has main responsibility for caring for a baby.
- The term partner refers to the woman's chosen supporter. This could be the baby's father, the woman's partner, a family member or friend, or anyone who the woman feels supported by and wishes to involve in their care.

Safety

We welcome birth partners to stay overnight on Level 6 if a woman is being induced or in early labour. The decision to stay overnight must be made in partnership with the staff and it is important to understand that this cannot always be accommodated.

However, it is our wish to make the birthing experience as positive as is possible, so if an overnight stay is accommodated, it is with the understanding that you are able to provide practical help and support for your partner in early labour. We recognise that this helps with family bonding and reduces anxiety amongst expectant parents.

We recommend that if you are over tired or have existing health problems, that you do not stay overnight.

In addition, we cannot allow children to stay overnight.

Infection Prevention and Control

For obvious safety and infection prevention reasons we cannot allow you to stay if:

- you are COVID positive/symptomatic of COVID, have a cold or flu or diarrhoea and vomiting.
- You are thought to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs

We have a responsibility for the health and safety of everyone present and must comply with local policies such as infection control, fire safety and the safety of expectant parents. In view of this we ask that you agree to the following points to stay overnight:

- Do not bed-share with your partner or sleep on the floor
- Make sure you wash your hands regularly and use the alcohol gel provided

Facilities

We are delighted to be able to offer pull-down beds in the rooms and there are designated toilets and bath/showers for birth partners. We are unable to offer you meals/snacks, however we do provide tea, coffee and water. There is also an M&S, WHSmith, Pret a Manger and a canteen serving hot food on the John Radcliffe Hospital site.

There are also other food shops and cafes only a short walk away in Headington.

General

- Birth partners can only stay overnight with a woman that is in a side room. We are unable to accommodate an overnight stay with a woman that is in a 4-bedded bay.
- You will need to sign in and out of the ward each time to leave/enter so that we know you are present and can account for you in case of 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 there is an emergency involving your partner, then please stay calm and allow the staff to act as they need to. A member of staff will provide you with 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 two people. Please use the pull-down bed provided. If you need additional sheets/blankets, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

- Birth partners are advised to keep fully dressed while on the ward. We wish to preserve the dignity and privacy required by everyone present including staff members.
- Please keep noise levels down and do not use mobile phones or handheld devices that are noisy at night-time. This will help facilitate sleep and rest.
- Please bring your own overnight bag and toiletries.
- Our staff always prioritise the care they give. They may not always be immediately available, but staff will always aim to attend to your needs as soon as possible. As staffing levels change from day to night, please be patient if you require extra assistance during this time.
- If you have any concerns or worries regarding your partner's or baby's welfare, please ask to speak to the midwife in charge.
- Please use the emergency call bell (which both you and your partner will be shown during your orientation to the ward) if help is required urgently.
- We cannot provide free or discounted car parking if you choose to stay overnight.

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.

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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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