

Date:..... Bed Number.....

Mothers Name.....Hospital Number:.....

YOU MUST READ AND SIGN THIS DOCUMENT IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY OVERNIGHT.

Dear Partner/Companion

We welcome a partner/companion to stay overnight on the postnatal ward, on the first night following delivery, so that you can take part in caring for mother and baby. We recognise that this helps with the family bonding and reduces stress and anxiety among mothers. The decision to stay overnight is entirely up to you. We would recommend that if you are overtired or have existing health problems, you do not stay overnight.

We are unable to offer comfort facilities such as a bed or showers due to limited space. We provide a chair by the bed to rest and can provide a blanket , although do not expect to get a good night's sleep as your new baby or partner will need you to support them.

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 mothers and babies. In view of this partners/companions must agree to the conditions set below in order to stay overnight. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please note:

Children are not permitted to stay overnight.

If you or your visitors have an illness such as a cold, flu or vomiting and diarrhoea, please do not visit. Speak to the midwife in charge.

Anyone who is perceived to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to stay. Swearing, physical and verbal aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated

Safety

You will need to **sign a register** to stay overnight so that we know you are present and can account for you in case of a fire and we need to evacuate.

If the fire alarm rings, please follow instructions given by the ward staff. Do not attempt to leave the ward prior to being instructed to do so.

We request that you do not wander around the ward at night. Not all women will have someone staying with them and may find strangers wandering around uncomfortable. **We would appreciate no requests for access in and out of the ward during the night.** The doorbell is disruptive to both sleep and providing care. The expectation is that you will remain with your partner throughout the night to provide support. (It would not be suitable for smokers who would need to leave the ward overnight, to stay).

Please wear shoes/slippers (non- slip) and do not walk around in bare feet.

If there are any concerns for the physical safety of mothers and babies, or staff on the ward, the security team will be called to assist.

We reserve the right to decline permission for partners/companions to stay on the ward, if there are significant concerns that would compromise the safety of mothers, babies or staff.

Infection control/prevention

Please do not sleep in beds with your partners. The beds are not designed or safe for two people and any damage will have to be paid for. Women/babies are more at risk of developing infections following birth.

Please use the bedside chair to rest. Do not sleep in the bed or on the floor.

Please use the hand gel and wash your hands **before** and **after** you help care for mother and baby.

Dignity/Noise

Partners/companions are advised to keep fully dressed while on the ward. We wish to preserve the privacy and dignity required by everyone present including staff.

Please keep noise levels down and be considerate of other women on the ward. Please do not use your phone on the ward between 22.00hrs and 08.00hrs. If you do need to use your phone, please leave the ward area to do so. Mobile ring tones should be kept on silent.

Facilities

There is a visitor's toilet outside Room 10.

Please do not use the showers on the ward. We would advise you to go home if you need a shower and proper rest.

There is a tea and coffee machine on the ward but we do not supply food. Please make a small donation for the tea and coffee.

General

The staff on the ward are busy and prioritise the care they give. They may not always be available promptly. On night duty there are not as many staff around as during the day time. Please be patient if you require extra assistance at night time. Do alert a member of staff, if help is required urgently.

If you have any concerns regarding your partners or babies welfare, please ask to speak with the midwife in charge of the ward.

We reserve the right to ask partners or visitors to leave at any time, should any behaviour, including snoring, be disruptive.

We welcome any feedback about your experience as a partner/companion staying overnight.

I have read, understood and agree to comply with the above conditions.

Signed:

Print name: