

Partner/Companion Staying Overnight

Antenatal and Postnatal Stay

Important Information



It is important that you read, understand and sign this document if you choose to stay overnight with your partner/companion.

Dear partners, companions and mothers,

We welcome partners/companions staying overnight on both Murray and Cellier wards. The decision to stay overnight or not is entirely up to you and should you take this opportunity, it is with the understanding that you are able to provide practical help and support for mother and baby. We recognise that this helps with family bonding and reduces anxiety amongst mothers. We would recommend that if you are overtired or have existing health problems that you do not stay overnight.

Due to our restricted environment and limited space, we are unable to offer comfort facilities such as a bed or showers. However, we do provide a reclining chair by the bed for rest and you can provide your own blanket if you wish. 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 co-operation.

Please note:

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. Children are not permitted to stay overnight.



Please read and sign the conditions set out below as read, understood and agreed, prior to your overnight stay.

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 but also should we need to evacuate the ward/department.
- If the fire alarm sounds please follow instructions given by ward staff. Do not attempt to leave the ward, staff will guide you.
- **Do not take your baby out of the ward area at any time. We need to ensure that babies stay with the mothers at all times.**
- **To avoid babies falling/being dropped, please put your baby back in the cot after feeds, nappy changes and cuddles.**
- **Please do not walk around or sleep with the baby in your arms or in the bed.**
- Please wear shoes/slippers (nonslip) and kindly do not walk around in bare feet or in socks.
- We request that you do not wander around the ward at night and not to leave the ward between **22:00hrs and 08:00hrs**. Not all women will have a partner/companion to stay and may find strangers wandering around uncomfortable or possibly threatening.
- If you are a smoker and cannot go without smoking overnight it is advised you do not stay as you will not be permitted to leave the ward to smoke during the hours of 22:00hrs and 08:00hrs. Please be reminded that the Trust adheres to a no smoking policy.
- If there is an emergency involving your partner or baby that requires immediate medical attention, please stay calm and let staff do what they need to do. In this instance it would be helpful to stay in the background until the emergency situation is over. A member of staff will provide information and support following the emergency.
- 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 at any time.
- We reserve the right to decline permission for partners or companions to stay on the ward at any time if there are significant concerns that will compromise the safety of mothers, babies and staff on duty.
- Whittington Health NHS 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 (CJIA 2008)
- We reserve the right to ask partners or visitors to leave at any time. Failing to leave will result in you committing an offence under section 119 & 120 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. Failure to comply with a request to leave may result in criminal prosecution.

Infection Control/Prevention

- **Please do not sleep in the 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. You may also be more at risk of picking up an infection on the ward.
- Please use the hand gel and wash your hands **before and after** you help care for mother or baby.

Dignity/Noise

- Partners/companions 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 hand held devices that are noisy at night time and after **22:00hrs until 0800hrs**. This will help facilitate sleep and rest for the mothers and babies.

Facilities

- There is a visitor's toilet for your convenience situated at the back of the wards, but there are no shower facilities. Please do not use the showers on the ward. We would advise you to go home if you need a shower and proper rest.
- Tea and coffee will be available but not food
- Please bring your own overnight bag, towels and toiletries

General

On Cellier ward staff can have up to 11 mothers and babies to care for and so have to prioritise the care they give. On occasion you may have to wait for a few minutes until the call bell is answered, however we endeavour to do so as quickly as possible. At night 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 or worries regarding your partners or baby's/babies welfare, please ask to speak with the midwife in charge or the matron in charge of the ward. **We would welcome any feedback about your experience as a partner/companion staying overnight. Please speak with your midwife or ward Matron.**

Parking

Please note that parking overnight in the hospital grounds is **not free**. The charge for parking on site is £3.00 per hour when you are here. We would advise that you park your car outside the hospital in nearby parking spaces/meters if staying overnight.

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

Signed:

Date:

Print Name:

Bed Number:

Mother's Name:

Hospital Number



Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whithealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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