



East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

FOI REF: 21/671

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

18th January 2022

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

***Note: In relation to all questions, please disclose any relevant hospital policies or details relevant to normal times, as well as any temporary hospital policies or details related to births during the coronavirus pandemic.**

1. What is your policy related to partners attending routine outpatient appointments and planned scans with pregnant women before birth?

One support person can attend. They are asked to perform a Lateral Flow Test prior to the appointment and to wear a face covering for the duration of the appointment. No children are admitted.

2. What is your policy related to partners attending unplanned outpatient appointments and scans with pregnant women before birth?

One support person can attend. They are asked to perform a Lateral Flow Test prior to the appointment and to wear a face covering for the duration of the appointment. No children are admitted.

3. What is your policy related to partners being with pregnant women during any induction of labour?

We offer pre-booked 6 hour visiting slots for one supporter on our antenatal ward, this is where inductions of labour take place. To maintain social distancing, this is restricted to two birth supporters per visiting slot, per 4-bedded bay. We endorse compassionate visiting and can facilitate this as required. All partners are asked to perform a Lateral Flow Test prior to the appointment and to wear a face covering for the duration of their visit. No children are admitted.

- 4. What is your policy related to partners being with pregnant women while giving birth in a delivery suite, antenatal ward or birth centre?**

One supporter can attend during established labour on labour ward or our birth centre. They are asked to perform a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending and to wear a face covering while in the hospital.

- 5. What is your policy related to the amount of time partners are able to stay on the antenatal ward/delivery suite and/or birth centre after birth?**

Supporters can remain on labour ward. When the mother is transferred to the postnatal ward one supporter can remain until the mother and baby are settled. There is flexibility around this depending on the time of day and business of the area/risk assessment of the space.

- 6. What is your policy related to partners being with new mothers and their babies on postnatal wards?**

We offer pre-booked 6 hour visiting slots for one supporter on our postnatal ward. To maintain social distancing, this is restricted to two birth supporters per visiting slot, per 4-bedded bay. We endorse compassionate visiting and can facilitate this as required. All partners are asked to perform a Lateral Flow Test prior to the appointment and to wear a face covering for the duration of their visit. No children are admitted.

- 6. If partners are allowed on postnatal wards only during certain visiting hours please can you state what these hours are?**

09.00-15.00 and 15.15 – 21.15.

- 8. What is your policy related to partners being with new mothers and their babies in the newborn intensive care unit? If there are also policies regarding the mother's hours allowed in these units please can you also state these?**

Two nominated visitors (usually parents) per cot 24 hours per day, parents are asked to call before attending to ensure the area is not too busy and meets the risk assessment requirements.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net