

FOI REF: 22/140

4th April 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:

- 1. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at antenatal appointments?**

Yes, pregnant people can have a support person at antenatal appointments.

- 2. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at scans?**

Yes, pregnant people can have a support person at ultrasound scans.

- 3. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during labour? If so, at what point and how many?**

Yes, pregnant people can have two birth supporters present when they are admitted to labour ward in active labour (NICE Clinical Guideline (CG190) for Intrapartum Care for Healthy Women and Babies defines active labour as “There are Regular painful contractions leading to progressive effacement and dilatation of the cervix and descent of the presenting part, or when the cervix is 4cms and fully effaced”.

- 4. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during birth? If so, at what point and how many?**

Yes, see above.

5. Has the Covid Pandemic resulted in the Trust having to reduce the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour, or birth in the last two years? If so, has this yet returned to pre-pandemic procedure?

Over the past two years there has been several changes to the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour, and birth. Overall, the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour, and birth has now returned to pre-pandemic arrangements. However, to limit the transmission of COVID-19 we ask that pregnant people and their supporters attend at their scheduled appointment time, and do not bring children to appointments. Occasionally, if the waiting area is not conducive to social distancing pregnant people and their support person may be asked to wait in an alternative place (car, café etc) until they are called to attend.

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)
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