

## **PATIENT INFORMATION**

# **Transfer of Maternity Care due to Risk Associated with Bleeding**



You have been given this leaflet because the maternity team looking after you believes it is important to think about moving your care to another hospital.

We are delighted that you chose us for your delivery and understand you may be disappointed at the idea of moving to another hospital.

We hope this leaflet will help you understand why this may be necessary and support the information already provided by the maternity team.

## **BACKGROUND**

In August 2015, the Trust invited the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to review our maternity services which are mainly provided at Ormskirk Hospital.

They recommended that women at high risk of bleeding during pregnancy should be offered delivery at a hospital with a 24-hour blood transfusion service and an intensive care unit. The way the Trust's buildings are organised does not meet these requirements.

Ormskirk has an on-site laboratory for providing blood but it is not staffed 24 hours a day. So, overnight, on weekend evenings and on bank holidays, we are supported by the blood service at our sister hospital in Southport.

Although our patients rarely need intensive care, the unit for our Trust is based in Southport.

## **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

Bleeding is a rare but potentially serious problem for women giving birth.

Very rarely, if there is a large amount of bleeding, women may need to have an emergency operation (called a hysterectomy) to remove their womb after they have delivered their baby.

There are several reasons why women may be at higher risk of bleeding during childbirth. Your maternity team will discuss with you what your risk factors are.

Examples of the kind of risks which mean we need to discuss moving your care to another hospital include:

- A low placenta close to the time of delivery.
- Heavy bleeding during previous childbirth.
- Large fibroids.
- Women who decline the use of blood products/transfusions.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

At your antenatal clinic appointment, your consultant will discuss with you why you may choose to move your care and together you can make a plan for your pregnancy.

The possible options are that:

You agree to move your care to another hospital that has the services you may need all on one site. This move could be now or usually no later than 34 weeks into your

pregnancy.

You wish to consider your options or discuss this with family or friends. In this case, a further appointment will be made for you to see the same consultant and have a further discussion about moving your care.

You decide not to move your care elsewhere and to continue with care at Ormskirk. In this case, another appointment will be made for you to see the same consultant and have a further discussion to make sure that you are still happy with this decision and have not changed your mind.

We understand that this is a big decision and want to support you through this. If at any point you require further information, please contact the Antenatal Clinic on **(01695) 656949** and this will be arranged for you.

**During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Midwife can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Contact the Antenatal Clinic to arrange a further appointment to discuss your care.

## **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION**

- Your own GP

## **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) – 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) – 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Ormskirk & District General Hospital  
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ  
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN  
Tel: (01704) 547471

**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

We would welcome your feedback about your experience  
at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.  
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following  
link:  
<https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/fft/>  
**Thank you**