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Request for Information Reference: 12.21.46

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Email only

23rd December 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 20th December 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to maternity partners policies and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

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

The Trust currently allow partners to attend appointments. Information leaflets and Lateral flow device tests and are given at booking to both women and their partners to perform twice weekly lateral flow tests. They are also expected to wear appropriate PPE and continue to maintain social distancing.

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

Woman and Partners will attend for a PCR test 24-48hrs prior to IoL date. Their partner can attend with a scheduled visit for the initial period whilst the woman is on the ante-natal ward. Once transferred to the delivery suite the partner can stay, up until their transfer to the post-natal ward where scheduled visiting is then re-instigated.

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

Partners can attend for the birth in the delivery suite. A rapid PCR test will be performed on attending the delivery suite.

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?

Partners will adhere to scheduled visiting (1 hour) whilst the woman is an inpatient on the ante-natal ward. Partners can stay in the delivery suite up until the woman has delivered and until transferred to the post- natal ward where scheduled visiting is re-instigated.

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

Partners can visit daily with 1 hour scheduled visiting. They are asked to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing.

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

Scheduled visiting time slots will be allocated and provided to the partner.

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?

No restriction on visiting on the unit for mother or partner. They are asked to continue twice weekly lateral flow testing.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator