

## COVID-19 update for Women's and Newborn Services, Metro North Hospital and Health Service GP Shared Care community

Women's and Newborn Services (WNS) across Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) continue to plan for various clinical scenarios as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, including how we best safeguard women receiving antenatal care.

Following recommendations contained in [Queensland Clinical Guideline: Maternity care for mothers and babies during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), Maternity facilities in MNHHS are introducing some changes for women requiring pregnancy care.

The following guidance for maternity care providers is in keeping with infection prevention and control practices and social distancing requirements:

1. GP Shared Care will continue to be an option for maternity care offered to women in MNHHS.
2. Wherever possible, antenatal visits will occur via Telehealth. Exceptions may include: high psychosocial risk women, non-English speaking women or those for whom English is their second language (if telehealth interpreter service is not available), women without access to suitable technology and when women require a face-to-face clinical assessment.
3. Face-to-face visits will be used to: conduct a physical or psychosocial assessment, screen for alcohol and other drug use, administer indicated Influenza and Pertussis vaccines, administer anti-D injections in Rhesus negative women. **Note:** women to attend alone +/- 1 support person and no accompanying children if possible.
4. Routine blood tests should be ordered at the usual times.
5. Women with risk factors for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) should have HbA1c performed in the first trimester and GDM screening at 24-28 weeks will now be by fasting blood glucose (FBG), as per the [Queensland Clinical Guideline: GDM diagnosis and screening during COVID-19 pandemic](#).
6. Face-to-face visits will be allocated 15 minutes and will be supported by Telehealth.
7. **Obstetric emergencies and concerns** (e.g. vaginal bleeding, decreased fetal movements) should continue to prompt immediate face-to-face review 24/7. It is advised to **call ahead** to complete necessary clinical and COVID-19 screening:
  - **Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital** - Obstetric Review Centre (ORC) (Ph: 3647 3931) available 24/7
  - **Caboolture Hospital** - Antenatal Day Assessment Unit (ANDAS) in Business Hours: 08:30 – 16:00 (Ph: 5433 8213) and Birth Suite (Ph: 5433 8670) outside Business Hours
  - **Redcliffe Hospital** - Antenatal Day Assessment Unit (ANDAS) in Business Hours (Ph: 3883 7108) and the Triage Midwife (Ph: 3883 7080) outside Business Hours.
8. Home blood pressure monitoring can be used as an alternative to face-to-face measurement and women may be requested to source a home blood pressure monitor. Check with your local hospital to determine if a home blood pressure monitoring service is available.

**9.** Fetal movement surveillance will assume increased importance as an indicator of fetal well-being, and women are encouraged to contact or report to **ORC (RBWH) or ANDAS (Redcliffe, Caboolture)** if they become concerned over reduced fetal movement. (**Call ahead** - contact details above).

**10.** Enquiry about fetal growth and well-being will be made at all Telehealth visits and assessed at all Face-to-face visits. Fetal growth and well-being ultrasound scans will be arranged as per usual clinical indications. In the event of concerns, additional face-to-face review may be undertaken. Additional fetal growth and well-being ultrasound scans may be appropriate.

**11.** Currently there are no recommended changes to routine ultrasound scan schedule, Anti-D administration and vaccination schedule as outlined in the [MNHHS Antenatal GP Shared Care Flowchart](#) and the [MNHHS Maternity GP Shared Care Guideline](#).

**12.** Women in self-quarantine/isolation will be requested to delay appointments—Telehealth excepted—until the recommended duration is complete. Urgent concerns should prompt presentation to ORC/ANDAS, with COVID-19 status screening of patients to occur prior to presentation. (**Call ahead** - contact details above).

**13.** Women will be able to access parenting information via the available resources:

- 1. RBWH and Caboolture:** GLOW, a free online resource full of helpful and factual information about pregnancy, breastfeeding, birth and going home with a newborn.
- 2. Redcliffe:** An education information pack is being posted to women and contains information and recommended websites.

We thank you in advance and look forward to working with you to provide world-class, evidence-informed care to pregnant women.

If you have a query or suggestion, please contact:

- 1. RBWH Maternity Services:** Janet Langusch (Phone: 3646 2380 Email: [Janet.Langusch@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Janet.Langusch@health.qld.gov.au))
- 2. Redcliffe Maternity Services:** Amanda McCartney (Phone: 3883 7802 Email: [Amanda.McCartney@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.McCartney@health.qld.gov.au))
- 3. Caboolture Maternity Services:** Sandra Lee (Phone: 5433 8800) Email: [Sandra.Lee@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Sandra.Lee@health.qld.gov.au))

**Thank you**

Directors of O & G

- Caboolture - Dr Lindsay Cochrane
- Redcliffe – Dr Graeme Jackson
- RBWH – Dr Lee Minuzzo

Professor Leonie Callaway, Executive Director, Women’s and Children’s Stream

Dr Meg Cairns – GP Liaison Officer, Brisbane North PHN and MNHHS

We are monitoring the situation closely and will let you know of any further changes.

[Click here for the latest information.](#)