

Restricting maternity bookings Q&A

Why are we temporarily restricting maternity bookings?

Our maternity unit remains to be a popular choice for mums-to-be and we are continuing to see an increased number of women choosing to have their babies at Russells Hall Hospital.

To continue providing safe, effective care for women and their babies accepted for delivery at Russells Hall Hospital, we have reluctantly taken the decision to temporarily limit future bookings to the maternity unit.

For a period of 12 months we are restricting bookings while we look into the feasibility of increasing capacity within the Maternity Department to meet increases in demand.

How are we deciding who to restrict?

NEW referrals

We are restricting new referrals from high and low risk women who are registered with a Sandwell GP within a radius of City Hospital. A number of these practices refer the highest number of women to Russells Hall Hospital. We are working closely with the commissioners of maternity services to identify which practices this will affect.

Women already booked

Some women registered with a Sandwell GP who have already booked to deliver their baby at the Trust, and who are classed as low risk (women whose care is midwife led with no complications), are being transferred to Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals' services who have very kindly agreed to accept our bookings for a limited period.

How many women are having their care transferred?

Approximately 140 low risk women already booked to give birth at Russells Hall Hospital are being transferred to Sandwell and West Birmingham.

All women due to give birth in February have been informed of our decision face to face by their community midwives. The remainder, due to deliver from March onwards, are also being contacted. There is no change to the delivery arrangements for higher risk women already booked.

Where can you give birth if not at Russells Hall Hospital?

Our colleagues at Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust will support you in your choice of delivery suite which includes the newly opened Halcyon midwife led unit and the Serenity centre in Sandwell, or at another Maternity unit of your choice.

Can you appeal the decision to transfer your care back to City Hospital?

If you are one of the 140 women having your care transferred back to City Hospital – and you believe you fall into the high risk category, please contact your community midwife who will look at your case notes and contact our Maternity Unit for a review of our decision to transfer.

Alternatively, phone 0121 507 6600 and leave your details. A senior member of the midwifery team will call you back as soon as possible.

Can you appeal the decision to decline your new referral?

Unfortunately not. We understand this decision is not a popular one and we regret any distress caused. However, if we do not temporarily restrict the numbers of women choosing our maternity services, we will not be able to guarantee the optimal care all women giving birth in our unit deserve.

Our proactive decision means we should not have to divert women to another unit in the very late stages of pregnancy.

If you have further questions

Please speak to your community midwife or phone 0121 507 6600 and leave your details. A senior member of the midwifery team will call you back as soon as possible.