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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/21/514
Antenatal Department – Covid 19

Information Requested:

1. The Covid-19 risk assessment for the antenatal department at UHW for the standard 12 ultrasound scan.
2. The Covid-19 risk assessment for the antenatal department at UHW for the standard 20 ultrasound scan.
3. The Covid-19 risk assessment for the antenatal department at UHW for subsequent growth and development ultrasound scans.

Please see attached

- The risk assessment for Antenatal clinic.

Please note: There are not different risk assessments for the different scans. Welsh Government Guidance supports attendance of birth partners at 12 and 20 week scans. Attendance at other appointments is based on the risk rating of the individual area. One key consideration of the risk ratings is the ability to facilitate social distancing within the waiting areas. Having birth partners attending the 12 and 20 weeks scans has minimal impact on this, they are asked to wait outside until the scan and given that this is a relatively low number of these scans going on at any one time we are able to continue to facilitate social distancing both within and outside the maternity unit. If birth partners were able to come to all antenatal scans and appointments this would not be possible and would also increase the footfall through the antenatal clinic.

4. The number of complains logged at UHW relating to partners being unable to attend maternity/antenatal appointments from the date Wales entered alter level 0 (7th August 2021, <https://gov.wales/alert-level-0-summary>).

There has been a total of 8 concerns regarding maternity visiting since 7 August 2021.

5. The differences implemented by the antenatal team to allow partner attendance at antenatal appointments since Wales entered level 0, compared to what was previously allowed.

At the point that Wales went to alert level 0 our visiting guidance was reviewed and risk ratings undertaken. However, given the low uptake of the vaccine in the pregnant population, the continued requirement for social distancing and the rates of Covid-19 within the community remaining relatively high it was felt that the risk within antenatal clinic had not reduced sufficiently to enable us to reduce our visiting restrictions further at that time.





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6. The exception criteria and request procedure implemented by the antenatal team to allow partner attendance at all antenatal appointments, and to be present in either the midwife or consultant led birthing unit prior to “active labour”, i.e. what criteria would a patient have to meet to be allowed this, and how would a patient request this?

As detailed in our guidance birth partners are able to attend for labour assessments on both the consultant led and midwifery led unit.

There is no specific list of exceptional circumstances, Welsh Government Guidance outlines the criteria for Essential Support Assistants and consideration for exceptional circumstances, as follows but this list is not exhaustive. Requests for exceptional circumstances need to be made in advance and can be made via community midwives/the obstetric team and are considered by the Senior Management Team on a weekly basis:

Essential support assistants

are individuals required by women with specific additional support needs, e.g. a support worker or interpreter. Essential support assistants are not to be classed as visitors in the traditional sense. In some circumstances where a woman usually receives care and support from a family member or partner they may nominate this person as their essential support assistant

Assessing restrictions of partners, visitors or other supporters to maternity inpatient services

Consideration should be given to the needs of women who require additional support to access maternity services and for whom reasonable adjustments may be required. This may be in the following situations, which are by no means exhaustive:

- Women with a mental health issue, a learning disability or autism, where not being accompanied would cause them to be distressed.
- Women with cognitive impairment who may be unable to recall health advice provided.
- Where the treatment/procedure is likely to cause the woman distress and the partner/nominated other can provide support.
- Where a woman has specific communication needs and may require support to understand information.

Women with support needs such as those listed above may also require an essential support assistant to accompany them to appointments and when in a hospital setting.

Please note: I wish to understand the exact difference in risk assessment, and justification for partners being allowed to attend the 12 and 20 week scans, but not subsequent scans. Additionally, I would like to understand the changes UHW has made since Wales entered level 0 restrictions, and what UHW deem a reasonable criteria to be exempt from the current restrictions imposed directly by the health board.

