MATERNITY UNIT

GUIDELINE: Visitors in the Maternity unit

SCOPE: All midwives, nurses, obstetricians and support staff working in the Maternity Unit

AUTHOR: Midwife Educator & Quality Coordinator

PURPOSE: To provide support to inpatient antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal women and babies, recognising the need to reduce the risk of infection to newborn babies while maintaining a private and restful environment for new mothers.

GUIDELINE: All visitors must wash their hands and/or apply hand De-Bug before and after entering the unit.

Newborn babies are susceptible to infection, hence it is important to try to minimise their exposure to community infectious diseases while they are in the maternity unit.

Advice should be given to women and their families that anyone who has been in contact with an infectious disease or who is unwell should not visit. This includes coughs, colds, flu, skin or oral Herpes Simplex Virus lesions (HSV), respiratory viruses, diarrhoea and chicken pox, etc.

All women should be given a copy of the leaflet ‘Welcome to Puawai Aroha Maternity Unit’, prior to admission, which explains the visiting guidelines.

Support people in labour

The woman will have discussed antenatally with her LMC who she wishes to support her in labour. This should be documented in the woman’s care plan and be available on admission. The only preference will be that only children of the labouring women will be allowed in the unit.

Support people should be reminded to respect the privacy of others using the maternity unit, and use the Whanau room if they are not directly supporting the women in her birthing room rather than sitting in the corridor in Delivery Unit.

While we respect the need for support in labour, in the event of an emergency some people may need to be asked to leave the room to give the midwife and/or obstetrician room to provide the care required in a safe and timely fashion.

Antenatal and Postnatal Visiting

Partners and grandparents will be welcome at all times in accordance with the woman’s wishes. One person may stay overnight as per the “support person staying in maternity agreement.”

Baby’s brothers and sisters may visit, but they must be closely supervised at all times by a family member or friend of the woman. They should be advised not to visit if they have
coughs, colds, diarrhoea or vomiting, or have been in contact with anyone with chicken pox, mumps, measles or any other infection.

Visiting time for others, apart from partners, grandparents or siblings, will be 11.00 hrs until 20.00 hrs. This is to enable the new mother to have plenty of rest after the birth and provides staff and LMCs time to provide any assistance and guidance to the mother and baby. However there may be times where flexibility should be shown due to individual circumstances.

Other people’s children are welcome if under adult supervision but numbers may be restricted to avoid disruption to other patients. There will be no prams or pushchairs permitted in the rooms, these may be left outside the rooms if a space in the wheelchair bay at the entrance is not available. Visitors are not to use the TV area for eating; they must be asked to move to the whanau room and asked to clean up after themselves.

When mothers are breast-feeding, or expressing milk, staff or LMCs need to ensure that they have adequate privacy and assistance as required. Visitors should be requested to be sensitive to this.

If the baby is being cared for in the Neonatal Unit, their visiting policy will be explained to the family.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
Neonatal Unit – Visiting policy
Maternity unit guideline – Support person staying in maternity - agreement
TDH Organisational Policy Visiting

REFERENCES
Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers’ Rights 1996
TDH Organisational Policy Visiting

Authorised By (HOD Obstetrics)

Authorised By (Clinical Care Manager Woman, Child and Youth)

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