

05 May 2026

Maternity Guidelines (Latent Phase of Labour/early labour)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request copies of any current clinical guidelines, protocols, or care pathways used by your organisation relating to the assessment and management of the latent phase of labour (early labour) within maternity services. If this is contained within general intrapartum care clinical guidelines then please send a copy of these.

If possible, please provide the most recent versions of these documents in electronic format.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act 2000, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSC) can confirm that it does not hold any standalone local clinical guidelines, protocols or care pathways specifically relating to the assessment and management of the latent (early) phase of labour within maternity services.

Under Section 1(1)(b) of the FOI Act 2000, BHSC confirms that intrapartum care, including the assessment and management of the latent phase of labour, is delivered in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline NG235 – *Intrapartum care*. A copy of NICE NG235 is attached for your information; this guideline includes reference to the latent phase of labour.

Please refer to attached:
36930 Maternity Guidelines (Latent Phase of Labour/early labour) Attachment 1.pdf

Further information is available via the NICE website:
[Overview](#) | [Intrapartum care](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)

In addition, all women receive the HSC Pregnancy Book, which contains general information and advice for women regarding early labour. This publication is intended as an information resource for service users and does not constitute a detailed clinical guideline, protocol or care pathway.

Please refer to attached:
36930 Maternity Guidelines (Latent Phase of Labour/early labour) Attachment 2.pdf

BHSC does not hold any additional local clinical guidelines, protocols or care pathways relating specifically to the latent phase of labour. Therefore, no further information is held within the scope of your request.