

15 July 2024

Virtual Wards in Maternity Services in Belfast Trust

- 1. Does your Trust use virtual wards for any maternity / obstetrics patients?
If no, please go to the last question (question 2).**

a. Is this provided internally (i.e. Trust versus private outsource)? If outsourced, which provider is responsible for delivering the virtual ward?

b. How long have you been providing or had provision for this virtual ward (months)?

Regarding point 1, Belfast Trust does not have a virtual ward for maternity / obstetric patients.

The Trust has a Day Obstetric Unit (DOU) within the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital.

c. If yes what obstetric/early pregnancy conditions do you currently use the virtual ward for:

- **Pre-eclampsia**
- **Preterm pre-labour rupture of membranes**
- **Obstetric Cholestasis**
- **Outpatient management of miscarriage**
- **Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy**
- **Hyperemesis gravidarum**
- **Other please specify:**

The DOU manages woman as outpatients with the following conditions:

- **Pre-eclampsia**
- **Pre-term pre-labour rupture of membrane**
- **Obstetric Cholestasis**
- **Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy**
- **Hyperemesis gravidarum**
- **Other: Reduced fetal movement / fetal growth concerns**

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d. Which diagnostic/monitoring tests do you provide as part of this service:

- Pulse
- Temperature
- Blood pressure
- Pulse Oximetry
- Blood tests (if so what tests and modality i.e. Point of care)
- Urinalysis
- Symptom questionnaire
- Foetal monitoring
- IV fluids
- IV medications
- Oral Medications

e. Which categories of medications are administered:

- Antihypertensives
- Antiemetics
- Analgesia
- Other please specify:
- None

With regard to points (d) and (e), the DOU provide the range of diagnostic and monitoring tests listed and medications to treat the listed conditions.

f. What is the maximum frequency of monitoring provided?

g. On average how many times a day will monitoring occur?

h. Are abnormal results reviewed by the treating team or the virtual ward provider?

i. Is there a time limit of how long patients can stay within the virtual ward e.g. two weeks? If yes, how long is the duration?

j. How is the virtual ward funded?

Regarding points (f) to (j), as advised above Belfast Trust does not have a virtual ward for maternity / obstetric patients.

2. If you currently do not provide a virtual ward for maternity/obstetrics patients do you have plans to implement them and, if so, when is this expected to go live?

There is no plan to have a virtual ward created in DOU.