Bedford Hospital’s Maternity Department
A photo guide for expectant mothers and their families

This online tour is designed to give you and your family the opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the maternity unit at Bedford Hospital so you know what to expect when you come in to the unit. If you have any questions please speak to your midwife who will be happy to help.
Welcome to the maternity unit at Bedford Hospital

Thank you for choosing Bedford for you maternity care.

Our maternity services are based in Cygnet Wing, our purpose-built women and children’s wing and include an outpatients department, Delivery Suite, a midwifery led unit called the Acorn Suite and Orchard Maternity Ward.

We have seven consultant obstetricians, a head of midwifery, and an experienced team of midwives and supervisors of midwives who are well supported by paediatricians, anaesthetists, registered nurses, trained maternity care assistants, administration staff and ward clerks to deliver more than 3,200 babies every year. The maternity team take great pride in providing an excellent service and supporting choice based on your individual needs. In last year’s Care Quality Commission National Maternity Survey (2010) almost every new mother rated the care they received from Bedford Hospital as excellent, very good or good.

We are a training hospital for student midwives, student nurses and medical students. Your permission will be sought for these students to assist with your care.

Whether you choose to have your baby at home, in the Acorn Suite or in the Delivery Suite, our aim is to ensure that your pregnancy and labour is a positive and safe experience.

If you would like more information about the maternity services at Bedford Hospital, find out more about breastfeeding support available, please telephone 01234 355 122 and ask for Cygnet Wing.

Getting here

Cygnet Wing is based on Bedford Hospital's South Wing site on Kempston Road. There are three main entrances to the hospital all of which have car parks:

Ampthill Road (A&E and outpatients department);
Britannia Road and;
Kempston Road – the nearest to Cygnet Wing

The Kempston Road car park has four free 30 minute ‘pick up and drop off’ parking bays. Once you have been dropped off, the car can be parked in the barrier car park.

Once you are in the hospital you will find Cygnet Wing is very well signposted. If you are arriving or leaving the Cygnet Wing between the hours of 9pm and 8.30am please use the buzzer system as the entrance will be closed for security.
Antenatal outpatients department

The antenatal outpatients department is located on the first floor of Cygnet Wing. The waiting area has play tables for children, a baby changing room and toilet facilities. The ultrasound department is situated within the clinic and enables easy access for all antenatal women visiting the clinic. The waiting room also has a patient information screen to keep you updated on waiting times.

There are three scanning rooms, each with a scanning machine. In addition, we operate a highly successful early pregnancy assessment clinic from Monday to Friday for women experiencing early pregnancy problems such as vaginal bleeding. There are also seven consulting rooms, a counselling room and office space.

The Acorn Suite

The Acorn Suite is our midwifery led unit and is located at the back of the Delivery Suite. The Acorn Suite has two birthing rooms. Each room has a birthing pool and shower room and is designed to offer a relaxing, home-from-home environment.

The rooms are fully equipped with bean bags, birthing balls and mats to promote active labour, please bring along any CDs you would like to listen to during labour.

When you arrive at the hospital please inform the midwife if you are interested in using the water birth facilities.

Room eight
Room eight birthing pool

Room nine
On arrival to Delivery Suite you will need to use the intercom system that can be found to the right of the doors, a member of staff will then allow you access to the unit. This system is also in place on Orchard Ward.

When you arrive you will be greeted by a midwife, maternity care assistant or ward clerk and shown to a room that has been allocated to you. Please have your green pregnancy notes with you.
You may have two birthing partners with you on the Delivery or the Acorn Suite. Other visitors are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of the midwife in change.

The Delivery Suite has seven delivery rooms. Each delivery room contains a multi-positional bed and armchair and we have a large supply of birthing balls and bean bags to aid comfort throughout labour and promote active birth. Most rooms also have a CD player, Hospicom TV and phone.

By each bed you will find a call bell, suction apparatus and Entonox (gas and air) piped from the wall to give you a continuous supply.

One of our seven delivery rooms

CTG monitoring

Assessing the heart rate of your baby is done by listening with a Sonicaid and/or CTG machine. The midwife will use a Sonicaid to listen intermittently to the heart beat throughout labour. A CTG will allow the midwife to assess the heart rate continuously throughout labour. It will also measure the frequency of each contraction.
**Resuscitaire**

If a Resuscitaire is not in the room during labour the midwife will, if required, ask for one to be set up prior to the delivery of your baby.

Following your delivery the midwife, or paediatrician (if present) may want to transfer your baby onto the Resuscitaire to observe their well being.

If oxygen is needed to help your baby take its first breaths this will be given on the Resuscitaire. However in most cases the Resuscitaire is not required and your baby will be handed directly to you following the birth for skin–to-skin contact.

**Theatres**

Within the Delivery Suite we have one obstetric theatre that is used for caesarean deliveries. In emergency situations labour room one can be immediately converted into a second theatre.

If you have a caesarean delivery you will be transferred into the recovery room, and later onto Orchard Maternity Ward.
Orchard Maternity Ward

Orchard Ward is a mixed antenatal and postnatal ward, it has 24 beds which is made up of five bays each containing four beds. One of the bays for women requiring closer monitoring, such as post caesarean patients, and is located behind the midwife’s desk, so all the staff members can keep a close eye on the patients.

There are four single rooms with en suite shower facilities; these rooms are used for women with a medical need or are available as amenity rooms at the cost of £95 per 24 hour period. These cannot be booked in advance as medical needs take priority.
Orchard Maternity Ward Facilities

There are shower and bathrooms available on the ward and a nursery is available for mother and baby to spend some time away from their bedside if preferred.

There is a dining room available on the ward where you can have your meals or help yourself to tea and coffee.
Visiting the ward

We ask that all visitors follow a code of conduct which is in place for the safety and wellbeing of our patients on Orchard Ward.

- Only two visitors are permitted per bed at any one time for space and security reasons;
- Children under the age of fourteen (other than your own children) are not permitted on the ward unless agreed by the midwife in charge;
- Children must be supervised at all times;
- Only visit for short periods, and please allow mothers time to rest before their next visitors arrive;
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the hospital site;
- Please turn off your mobile phone when entering the hospital site;
- Flowers and plants are not permitted on the wards for health and safety reasons;
- Do not visit if you are unwell, particularly if you have cold or flu-like symptoms, or if you have had a stomach upset in the last 48 hours
- Always wash your hands or use the hand gel provided at all entrances when entering or leaving the wards.

Meadowbank Neonatal Ward

Following your delivery the midwife or consultant may want to transfer your baby for specialist care on our neonatal unit which is called Meadowbank Ward.

The ward is situated on the third floor of Cygnet Wing and is staffed by an experienced team of consultant paediatricians and specialist nurses who are specially trained to care for premature and poorly babies. We also have a number of and family care assistants on the ward.

When your baby arrives on the ward they will be admitted to the room pictured on the left for assessment, treatment and stabilisation. The nurses will explain your baby’s care plan to you and what the equipment is for, please do ask questions if you have any queries. Parents are welcome to visit their baby on the unit at any time.
Equipment

- Overhead infant warmer
- Manual breathing machine
- Breathing machine
- Monitor for heart rate, breathing and oxygenation
- Pump for intravenous fluids
- Heated mattress
- Equipment

Breathing machine
When your baby is more stable they can be transferred to the room pictured below where they can be nursed in either an incubator or a cot.

We have two overnight rooms for parents which can be used when mothers have been discharged from the postnatal ward but want to stay near their baby for a few more days. Parents also often stay for a night or two in these rooms prior to taking their baby home.
Supervisors of midwives
A supervisor of midwives is an experienced midwife who has additional training to become a supervisor and is accountable to the Local Supervising Authority.

Supervision is a statutory responsibility which provides a mechanism of support and guidance for every midwife in the UK and has a role in advising, supporting and being an advocate for women who use midwifery services. You can contact a supervisor of midwives via the hospital switchboard on 01234 355122.

We hope that you have found this information useful and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your midwife.

Useful Contact Numbers

To book a tour of the unit: 01234 792073
To make a booking visit by a community midwife: 01234 792073
Acorn Suite: 01234 355 122 ext. 6123
Delivery Suite: 01234 795805
Orchard Ward: 01234 792070
Meadowbank Ward: 01234 792072