

Birth partners guide when theatre is required following birth

Where possible, we aim to keep birth partners and the mother together, so if there is no urgency to transfer to theatre, you may be offered the opportunity to accompany the mother into theatre, as long as there is a staff member to help you care for the baby.

If accompanying the mother to theatre is inappropriate due to medical concerns, you will need to remain in the birth room with the baby. You can use the call bell provided to seek assistance and reassurance.

It is important that the baby remains warm, wears a nappy, hat and is covered with warm blankets. You may enjoy skin to skin contact with the baby and you will be helped to facilitate this safely. This includes ensuring you can see the baby's face and that the mouth and nose are uncovered. If you notice a change in the baby's breathing, colour or tone you must notify staff immediately. If you decide not to have skin to skin contact with the baby then the baby can be dressed and wrapped in a blanket.

Only one birth partner can attend theatre with the mother.

Baby can be taken into theatre in a cot and then have skin to skin contact with the mother during the procedure, if appropriate.

In case you need to bring the baby back to the birth room, the cot will be kept in blanketthe room next to theatre. This could be necessary if the mother requires a general anaesthetic. You will be escorted out of the theatre with the baby in the event of complications,

While in theatre, the mother and baby may be able to stay in skin to skin contact, but sometimes it is preferable for the birth partner to do this. A hat and dry blankets must be used to keep the baby warm.

The doctors carrying out the procedure may not be in a position to answer questions at the time; however, there will be an opportunity for discussion afterwards. You will be supported to care for the baby in theatre. The midwife will guide you to avoid touching sterile areas/equipment. For this reason, and to maintain safety, please stay seated during the procedure.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

R Napper-Bonney, Infant Feeding Team Lead, June 2019

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Next review due: July 2023