

## **HOMEBIRTH TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL**

*This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP.*

### **1. AIM**

- Facilitation of transfer from a planned homebirth to the Delivery Suite/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for the care of the woman and/or neonate

### **2. PATIENT**

- Woman with a planned homebirth requiring intrapartum or postpartum transfer to hospital
- Neonates born at home requiring transfer to hospital

### **3. STAFF**

- Medical, midwifery, nursing staff
- Ambulance staff
- Admissions staff

### **4. EQUIPMENT**

- Mobile Phone

### **5. CLINICAL PRACTICE**

#### **Maternal Transfer**

- Transfer from the woman's home to hospital is arranged by the homebirth midwife who liaises with the In-charge midwife of Delivery Suite
- Ascertain from the homebirth midwife a telephone history of the woman's / neonates care, the reason for transfer and degree of urgency
- Ensure that the obstetric or neonatal team, admission staff and Nurse Manager are informed of the pending transfer, by the in-charge midwife of Delivery Suite

#### **For women booked with RHW Homebirth Service**

- Continue to provide care by the Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) midwife following transfer to hospital in consultation with the obstetric team

#### **For all other women**

- Ascertain if the woman has a medical record number and is booked at RHW
- Ascertain the woman's history, including a record of pregnancy and labour (written or verbal) at the time of admission
- Support to the woman and her family may be provided by the Privately Practicing homebirth Midwife, however, care is transferred to the delivery suite midwife and obstetric team

#### **Neonatal Transfer**

- Arrange admission by the homebirth midwife liaising with the In-charge Midwife of Delivery Suite who will notify admission staff and Bed Manager
- Perform assessment and triage of the neonate on arrival in Delivery Suite. If the neonate is undergoing active resuscitation, transfer to the resuscitation bay of Newborn Intensive Care Unit will occur

### **6. DOCUMENTATION**

- Medical records
- Obstetric Database

## **HOME BIRTH TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL cont'd**

### **7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES**

- The staff of the Royal Hospital for Women should remain respectful of the relationship between the woman and her homebirth care giver/s
- The RHW provides a homebirth service for eligible women through the Midwifery Group Practice
- RHW has an agreement with the NSW Ambulance Service in the event of a life threatening situation where the woman will be transferred to the closest medical facility

### **8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP**

- Midwifery Admission
- First Stage Labour care for woman with a low risk pregnancy
- First Stage Labour Care Recognition of normal Progress and Management of Delay
- Second Stage Labour Care Recognition of normal Progress and Management of Delay
- Neonatal Resuscitation

### **9. RISK RATING**

- Low

### **10. NATIONAL STANDARD**

- Standard 5 – Comprehensive Care

### **11. REFERENCES**

- 1 Australian College of Midwives (2016 National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral, ACM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Issue 2  
[https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/RANZCOG\\_SITE/media/RANZCOG-MEDIA/Women%27s%20Health/Referral-Guidelines-3rd\\_edition\\_issue\\_2\\_20150211\\_final\\_0.pdf?ext=.pdf](https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/RANZCOG_SITE/media/RANZCOG-MEDIA/Women%27s%20Health/Referral-Guidelines-3rd_edition_issue_2_20150211_final_0.pdf?ext=.pdf)
- 2 NSW Dept of Health (2006) Maternity - Public Homebirth Services PD2006\_45, available at [www.nswhealth.nsw.gov.au/policies](http://www.nswhealth.nsw.gov.au/policies)
- 3 ACM Home birth transfer guidelines  
[https://www.midwives.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/field\\_f\\_content\\_file/20160330\\_-\\_acm\\_transfer\\_from\\_planned\\_birth\\_at\\_home\\_guidelines\\_-\\_endorsed.pdf](https://www.midwives.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/field_f_content_file/20160330_-_acm_transfer_from_planned_birth_at_home_guidelines_-_endorsed.pdf)

### **REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY**

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs 14/8/18  
Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 18/8/11  
Reviewed and endorsed Obstetrics Guidelines Group 16/8/11  
Approved Quality Council 16/10/06  
Replaced 'Homebirth Policy' approved by Council 26/2/01

**FOR REVIEW : AUGUST 2023**