

## Patient information

# Midwifery Day Assessment Unit (MDAU)

Women come to the Maternity Day Assessment Unit (MDAU) to be assessed and monitored if they have developed complications that require further investigation. This means that appropriate treatment and advice can be given and follow up appointments made if necessary.

In diagnosing problems early and providing an appropriate and individual plan of care, we help you and your partner make informed choices about your pregnancy which ensures the best possible outcome for you and your baby.

As you will be seen as an outpatient, you will be able to stay at home with your family for as long as your condition safely permits.

## Where is MDAU?

MDAU is accessed via the Antenatal Clinic on the first floor. If you have any concerns during your pregnancy you can either call your community midwife via the community midwifery Hub, the Maternity Day Assessment Unit or the Labour Suite. MDAU is open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 8.00pm and Saturday, Sunday and Bank holidays 10.00am to 4.30pm. You are welcome to call us directly. During the hours MDAU is closed, the antenatal ward F11 will still answer calls and see you if needed overnight.

Contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

## Referrals

During your pregnancy, you may come into contact with a range of medical professionals, all of whom may find it appropriate to refer you to be seen on MDAU, however MDAU also is there for yourself to call for reassurance, advice and to self-refer. The list of who may make an appointment for you includes;

- Self-referral

- Midwives
- General practitioners
- Antenatal clinic staff
- Inpatient clinical staff

We will see you if you are over 18 weeks pregnant and not in labour. Some of the most likely reasons to see you will be:

- Your baby is less active than usual (reduced fetal movements) and you are over 28 weeks
- Your community midwife finds you have raised blood pressure
- You think your waters have broken (ruptured membranes)
- Vaginal bleeding (without pain)
- Abdominal pain
- Scan reviews
- Your baby is not lying head down after 36 weeks
- Ongoing management and assessment of pregnancy complications.

We will discuss your concerns over the phone to get more information from you to assess if you need to be seen and which is the most appropriate department to see you in. If the day assessment unit is where you need to be seen, you will then be given an appointment time. The time of this will depend on the urgency of which you need to be seen.

Please be aware that there may still be a short wait after your appointment time if we need to see someone with more urgent requirements. This is to ensure that we do not compromise the safety of women and their babies.

At times, appointments can take longer than you are expecting. This may be due to us waiting for blood results, extra tests or monitoring that we feel we need to do, and the availability of the doctor that will need to see you. It may be necessary for you to arrange childcare for any other children that you have, prior to coming in. If you are coming to MDAU for regular appointments and on-going care, we can make your appointments in advanced around your schedule and any other children. You may be asked to attend the phlebotomy clinic prior to attending MDAU for any blood tests. This will hopefully reduce your waiting times after your appointment for blood results.

## Our staff

Our team includes midwives, maternity care assistants and obstetric doctors. Following admission to MDAU, women are assessed by the midwife and seen by the obstetric doctors if necessary. A plan of care will be discussed and made with you. You will then be advised about any follow-up appointments that may be needed.

## Contact information

- **Community Midwifery Hub**  
Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Telephone: **01284 713755**
- **Maternity Day Assessment Unit (MDAU)**  
Monday to Friday 8.00am – 8.00pm and  
Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 10.00am - 4.30pm  
Telephone: **01284 712723**
- **Labour Suite:** open 24 hours, 7 days a week; telephone: **01284 713278**
- **Antenatal Ward F11:** open 24 hours, 7 days a week; telephone: **01284 713216**

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email [info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk](mailto:info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk). This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>*



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