REFERRAL TO THE MATERNAL FETAL ASSESSMENT UNIT 
(AMBULATORY CARE ONLY)

1. PURPOSE

To provide a standardised process to refer a patient to the Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit (MFAU) for assessment:

- To allow a pregnancy to be monitored outside normal clinic appointments.
- To detect any abnormalities that may arise between antenatal clinic appointments.
- To identify complications of pregnancy and initiate a change in management.

2. PROCEDURE

Decision to Refer to MFAU for Assessment

- The decision to refer a patient to the maternal fetal assessment unit should be made in conjunction with the treating obstetric team.
- If the patient is being managed by a midwifery-led clinic, the clinic midwife shall provide a clinical handover to a doctor before sending the patient to MFAU. The doctor will be responsible for reviewing the patient after the assessment to establish a clear plan.

Documentation of the Assessment Plan

- After discussion with the reviewing doctor, a clear assessment plan shall be documented on the MFAU attendance sticker in an iSoBAR format.
- The sticker will be placed in the outpatient ANC records (MR223).
- The plan will include:
  - Name of the referrer.
  - Nature of assessment required in MFAU.
  - The proposed management plan following assessment which may include:
    - discharge criteria if maternal and fetal wellbeing is confirmed, and/or
    - admission criteria depending upon outcome of assessment, and
    - named reviewer if clinical concerns become apparent during the assessment.
    - Details outlining follow up plan, including continued assessments in MFAU if indicated and next ANC appointment.
- A new MFAU assessment plan sticker shall be completed at any time a change in management has occurred.
Arranging a MFAU Assessment

Same Day Assessment

- If the patient is to attend MFAU for a review on the same day after the ANC has occurred, the sticker must be completed as above.
- The MFAU co-ordinator shall be contacted on extension # 2188 and advised that the woman is attending for assessment.
- If the referring clinician is not able to review the woman after the MFAU assessment, an alternative clinician must be identified, provided with verbal clinical handover and the name of the reviewing clinician documented on the MFAU assessment sticker.

Future Assessment

- If the patient is to attend MFAU on a future date the sticker shall be completed and placed in the outpatient record MR223. The sticker shall identify the date or dates of assessment and the named doctor who is to be contacted as necessary.
- For women who require regular MFAU assessment (e.g. CTG) as part of their antenatal management plan, the days of the week for ongoing assessment may be indicated rather than actual dates.
- These appointments will be booked with the MFAU ward clerk on extension # 2131.

Arranging blood tests for MFAU assessments

- If a patient is required to have a blood test performed as part of their booked assessment in MFAU, wherever possible, this should be performed in the pathology department prior to their assessment. The request form should be completed and given to the patient.
- If the booked appointment is at a weekend or time when the laboratory is closed, the patient shall be advised to present the request form on arrival to MFAU and have bloods collected then.

Arranging an Ultrasound Scan (USS) as Part of a MFAU Assessment.

- A Sonographer is available 0830 to 1700 Monday to Friday in MFAU.
- If an urgent (same day) formal USS followed by review in MFAU after is required, this must be discussed with the MFAU co-ordinator (extension # 2188) to ensure availability.
- If this is not possible the MFAU coordinator and MFAU sonographer will prioritise and arrange the ultrasound scan. This may be in Diagnostic Imaging (on call sonographer - 0420302596).
- If an USS is required as part of a future MFAU assessment, the MFAU appointment should be booked with the MFAU ward clerk and then the time and date recorded on the USS referral form and sent to Ultrasound (US) department. This allows the US department to book the scan on the same day as the appointment in MFAU.
- If a portable USS is required this can be performed in the Antenatal clinic. If this is not possible, a clinical handover must occur to the doctor who will be performing the portable USS.

Assessment of a Patient in MFAU

- Assessments of the patient will occur in MFAU as per the documented plan on the MFAU attendance sticker and MFAU clinical guidelines. Usual midwifery review shall occur.
- If further review is specified in the plan, or indicated by the assessment, the midwife shall contact the designated doctor.
- If urgent review is required, the MFAU registrar or LBS registrar shall review.
Medical Review for Planned MFAU Attendances.

- To promote continuity of care, the nominated doctor named on the MFAU sticker will be contacted. Initially this can be done via the pager system.
- If there is no reply within 5 minutes a repeat page shall be sent.
- If there is still no response after a further 5 minutes they should be contacted via the switchboard.
- If the nominated doctor is unable to be contacted, escalation to the team senior registrar or consultant shall occur.

- Once contacted verbal clinical handover should occur. The doctor may be able to provide an ongoing management plan over the phone.
- If a formal medical review is required, this should take place within 20 minutes of being contacted.
- If the nominated doctor is unable to attend within 20 minutes they shall make this known and handover the patient to another doctor who can review within the required time frame. Ideally this should be a member of the treating team but may be the MFAU registrar.
- If no review has occurred within 20 minutes, the nominated doctor will be called again.
- If no medical review has taken place within 45 minutes, and the team is still unable to review, escalation to the MFAU/LW registrar, or senior registrar or consultant on call shall occur.
- If the situation requires more urgent review, the LW/MFAU registrar shall be asked to review and initiate management.
- Once assessed, the MFAU registrar shall contact the designated team doctor or senior team member and hand the patient back over to their care, ensuring either admission or follow up as an outpatient has been arranged.
- Circumstances may dictate that additional support is required to ensure timely review of the patients attending. Contact shall be made with the senior registrar on call. If they cannot be contacted or are busy then the consultant on call should be contacted.
Antenatal Follow Up

- If the patient is being discharged home from MFAU the arrangements for their next planned appointment should be booked and clearly documented. These appointments may include further MFAU assessment, booked ANC or plans for delivery including Induction of labour/ Elective Caesarean Section date.

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<th>REFERENCES (STANDARDS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Standards – 12 Service Delivery</td>
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Do not keep printed versions of guidelines as currency of information cannot be guaranteed. Access the current version from the WNHS website
Decision for patient to attend MFAU as part of an antenatal management plan.

Plan documented on MFAU planned attendance sticker.

Inform MFAU ward clerk to arrange suitable appointments.

Ensure doctor who will be contacted if clinical concerns is aware of patient and plan.

Inform MFAU Co-ordinator.

Assessment in MFAU

Are there clinical concerns or plan indicates medical review?

Yes

Send patient to Pathology lab before attending MFAU if safe to do so.

Inform MFAU Co-ordinator who will arrange USS.

Patient is to be admitted or discharged?

Yes

Ensure follow up is made in MFAU or ANC and discharge patient

No

Admitted

Book bed on EBM

No

If patient required blood tests

Ensure doctor who will review the patient on MFAU is aware of attendance.

If Patient requires USS

Inform MFAU Co-ordinator who will arrange USS.

If patient required blood tests

Ensure doctor who will review the patient on MFAU is aware of attendance.

No

If Patient requires USS

Inform MFAU Co-ordinator who will arrange USS.

No

If patient required blood tests

Ensure doctor who will review the patient on MFAU is aware of attendance.

Yes

Review can be via telephone.

Are they able to review within 20 min?

Yes

Admitted

Book bed on EBM

No

If no doctor arrived within 20 min to re-call regarding ETA and handover if necessary.

If patient awaiting medical review for >45 min, to call senior reg or consultant

No

Send patient home to attend MFAU at later date.

Ensure patient has pathology request form if indicated.

Ensure USS form written with days of MFAU appt included.

Contact Doctor named on MFAU sticker.

Are they able to review within 20 min?

Yes

Review can be via telephone.

No

Doctor to handover to someone who can review within 20 min.

If no doctor arrived within 20 min to re-call regarding ETA and handover if necessary.

If patient awaiting medical review for >45 min, to call senior reg or consultant

2014 All guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer at the beginning of this manual