



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Agnes Walsh House / Lodge: Transfer of a woman + / - her baby

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

Aims

- To provide accommodation and access to maternity services for women who have birthed at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) or have birthed elsewhere and their baby is in Special care Nursery.
- To provide accommodation to women and their babies following discharge from KEMH, while they are waiting for transport to return to their home or regional area.

Location and definition

Accommodation at Agnes Walsh House/Lodge is located on the 2nd floor of the Agnes Walsh building which has two sides that operate differently: Agnes Walsh **House** (AWH) and Agnes Walsh **Lodge** (AWL).

AWH: there are 11 beds for women from the country with a baby in NICU. These are managed by Special Care Nursery (SCN) Discharge Coordinator and form AWH.

AWL: is for antenatal women only with 12 beds and there are also 2 postnatal beds for medically discharged mothers and babies awaiting transport back to regional areas (mother-crafting). These are managed by the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Discharge Coordinator.

Women using this accommodation must be mobile and able to use the stairs (accommodation is on the second floor), and self-caring, as there is no medical / midwifery support on site.

Key Points

1. Antenatal, gynaecology and oncology women from regional areas, who are required to remain in Perth, will no longer be routinely offered accommodation at AWL.
2. Visiting Midwifery Service does not provide care to antenatal and postnatal women at AWL/ AWH.
3. Continue to request a bed through the Discharge Co-ordinator (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), who will attempt to organise alternative accommodation, in conjunction with Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS), at a hostel or Ronald McDonald House. The Discharge Coordinator can be contacted via pager # 3352, after hours use #3333.

See also O&G Clinical Guideline [Ronald McDonald House: Booking](#).

4. If all other services are fully booked, AWL will be used as a last resort

Exclusion Criteria:

Women who are classified as **high risk** pregnancies with any of the following:

- Unstable type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes on insulin.
- Instability or non-compliance with prescribed medications
- Current substance / alcohol misuse.
- Psychological / psychiatric and / or behavioural and personality factors
- Infectious disease.
- Adolescents without a support person present.
- Multiple birth with no available support person present (postnatal).
- Non English speaking women.
- Any patient the Discharge Co-ordinators, Hospital Clinical Manager or Clinical nurse / Midwifery Manager considers inappropriate for AWH/ AWL.
- Complex care patients constituting significant issues in relation to DCP/Child Protection.

Note: Women with spontaneous rupture of membranes, threatened preterm labour or unstable Type 1 diabetes, or type 2 diabetes and on insulin, must not be transferred prior to 48 hours following review and admission to KEMH and their condition must be stable prior to transfer.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Inpatient Transfer

- Ask the woman to sign the residential contract for AWH & AWL.
- The midwife must advise the woman that she should present to the Emergency Centre if she has any concerns about her own or her neonate's health while is AWH & AWL.
- Provide the Agnes Walsh House/Lodge Information leaflet and Welcome pack.
- For regional postnatal mother and baby rooms page the Discharge Co-ordinator on page 3352, in hours, to assess and confirm suitability for transfer. In hours the discharge coordinator contacts Patient Support Services (PSS) on extension # 1410 to book a room. After hours contact the Hospital Clinical Manager on page # 3333, to confirm availability. In hours when the discharge coordinator is not available contact the specialist clinic Senior Registered Nurse/Midwife (SRN), the Clinical Nurse Midwife Manager (CNMM) for Clinics, or the Obstetric Clinical Midwifery Consultant (CMC) for inpatients, to assess and confirm suitability. The SRN confirming suitability will contact PSS to book a room.

- For all regional women that qualify for PATS, ensure that a completed PATS form has been faxed to their regional PATS office prior to transfer.
- Women with babies remaining in the Neonatal Clinical Care unit - page the SCN Discharge co-ordinator on 3512, in hours, to assess and confirm suitability for transfer .Rooms are booked through Support Services extension 1488/1410 (before 15:30), and through the Hospital Clinical Manager page 3333 after hours.
- Between 0700 -1430hr the AWH Patient Care Assistant (Page 3267) shall escort the woman to her room and outline the emergency procedures and housekeeping appropriate to AWH.
- Between 1430- 0700hr admissions shall provide the woman with a key to her room and the shift orderly shall escort her to AWH and outline the emergency procedures and housekeeping appropriate to AWH.

Related WNHS policies, procedures, guidelines and resources

KEMH Clinical Guidelines, Obstetrics & Gynaecology:

- [Discharge of a Patient](#)
- [Ronald McDonald House : booking](#) process

WNHS Policy Manual:

- [Accommodation for Parents / Carers and Support Persons](#)
- [Discharge Policy](#)

WNHS Health point (Intranet only): [Patient Flow and Bed Management Unit](#) page

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