



**OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE**

Born before arrival (BBA): Admission procedure

Scope (Staff):	WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate clinical areas at KEMH and OPH

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

On arrival

On arrival, the woman is transferred to the appropriate area for ongoing care following assessment in the Emergency Centre.

Women booked to birth at:

- KEMH Family Birth Centre (FBC) can be admitted directly to the FBC if the Ambulance staff feel this is appropriate after individualised assessment.
- OPH are admitted directly to Birth Suite.

Mother

Criteria for admission to the Labour and Birth Suite (LBS)

- Retained or in situ placenta
- Woman's condition is unstable
- **OPH:** All women booked to birth at OPH are admitted directly to Birth Suite

Criteria for admission to the Postnatal Ward

- Not requiring suturing/suturing completed.
 - Suturing may be completed in EC or LBS
- Third stage complete.
- No excessive vaginal bleeding (blood loss <500ml or no ongoing vaginal bleeding/ trickling).
- Observations are satisfactory.

Criteria for admission to the FBC

- Woman's condition is stable and she feels well.
- No excessive vaginal bleeding (blood loss <500 mL or no ongoing vaginal bleeding/ trickling).



Baby

Note: See also 'observations' within [WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology Neonatal Care clinical practice guideline](#) for admission to postnatal ward, e.g. if meconium present at birth.

Criteria for admission to the LBS

- If the mother is admitted to Labour and Birth Suite.

Criteria for admission to the Postnatal Ward

- If the mother is admitted to Postnatal Ward and
- Observations are satisfactory. For additional observations required (e.g. for meconium stained liquor, GBS) see also 'observations' within WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology [Neonatal Care](#) clinical practice guideline

Criteria for admission to the FBC

- If the mother is admitted to FBC and
- Observations are within normal limits

Criteria for admission to the Special Care Nursery (SCN)

- As per [Neonatology guidelines: Admission to NICU KEMH and PCH.](#)

Documentation

1. As per WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology [Labour and Birth: Birth Notification](#) Clinical Practice Guideline
2. The midwife caring for the woman, i.e. in Labour and Birth Suite, FBC or the Postnatal Ward, completes the documentation and STORK entry.
3. A midwife shall inspect the placenta as per WNHS Obstetrics & Gynaecology [Labour: Third Stage](#) Clinical Practice Guideline, and include the details in the Labour and Birth Summary (MR230.01 if KEMH) or at OPH MR(OPH)71.
4. Follow relevant guidelines for the placenta; it should be either:
 - a) given to parents to take home – refer to WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology [Labour: Placenta Being Taken Home: Safe Handling](#) Clinical Practice Guideline,
 - b) bagged and put into anatomical waste bin on Labour and Birth suite (see Labour: Third Stage) or,
 - c) if meets criteria/requested by medical team sent for histopathology. Refer to WNHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology [Labour: Indications for Pathological Examination of a Placenta](#) Clinical Practice Guideline.

Related WNHS procedures and guidelines (if required)

WNHS [OGD Clinical Guidelines](#):









- Labour and Birth: Birth Notification
- Labour: Third Stage
- Neonatal Care

WNHS policies: [Admission policy](#) and [Admission procedure](#)

WNHS [Patient Flow and Bed Management Unit](#) HealthPoint hub page [Intranet access only]

CAHS [Neonatology](#) - Admission guideline: [Admission to NICU: KEMH and PCH](#)

Related: **CMP** Guideline: [Born Before Midwife Arrival \(BBA\): Planned Homebirth](#)

Keywords	Born before arrival, BBA, admission procedure, notification of birth, birth notification		
Document owner:	Co-Directors, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate		
Author/ Reviewer	CMC LBS and CMC FBC		
Date first Issued:	Sept 2001		
Reviewed dates (since Jan 2009):	Jan 2009; Oct 2012; Jul 2015; Jul 2018; Oct 2021; Apr 2025	Next review date:	Apr 2028
Endorsed by:	Midwifery and Obstetrics Clinical Practice Outcomes Committee	Date:	13/03/2025
Endorsed by:	Clinical Governance Committee	Date:	16/04/2025
NSQHS standards applicable:	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  1: Clinical Governance</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/>  2: Partnering with Consumers</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/>  3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/>  4: Medication Safety</div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/>  5: Comprehensive Care</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  6: Communicating for Safety</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/>  7: Blood Management</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration</div>	
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.			

Version history

Date	Summary
Prior to Oct 2021	Archived- contact OGD Guideline Coordinator for previous versions. Original titled as 'A2.6.5 Born before Arrival - Admission Procedure' (DPMS Ref 5459)
Oct 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow relevant guidelines relating to management of the placenta • Removed reference to LBS Birth Register • OPH details added
Apr 2025	Under heading "Criteria for admission to the Postnatal Ward, addition of "Suturing may be completed in EC or LBS"

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2025

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

www.nmhs.health.wa.gov.au