Government of **Western Australia**
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

Doulas at the hospital

Patient information

When you attend King Edward Memorial Hospital or Osborne Park Hospital for pregnancy care and the birth of your baby, we welcome you and your support persons. If you have chosen to engage the services of a doula they will also be welcome.

Your doula works for you and is not an employee of the hospital. The following guides will assist in providing a framework when caring for you during your pregnancy and during labour and birth.

Please note: only one support person can attend theatre if you require a caesarean. Please consider who that will be before the need arises.

What doulas DO

The hospital's medical and midwifery team perform clinical tasks. Doulas can provide the following services:

- Support positive communication between the woman and her healthcare team; this may include allowing the couple time to discuss options and preferences
- Provide unbiased information, physical and emotional support to the woman and/or parents during pregnancy, labour and birth
- Accurately represent their education and experience.
- Offer counsel and support, but not advice, to the mother and/or parents
- Provide a positive birth environment/ atmosphere
- Refer women to other appropriate resources/ health professionals if the woman has needs beyond the scope of the doula's role.

What doulas DO NOT do

- Take observations such as temperature, pulse, blood pressure and fetal heart rate
- Adjust monitors, including fetal monitoring machines and equipment, fill up the pool
- Perform vaginal examinations
- Hinder communication between hospital staff and woman and/or partners
- Interfere with hospital treatment and or advice
- Diagnose medical conditions or present options for care, even if trained as a health professional prior to becoming a doula, while practising as a doula
- Speak for you or make decisions for you.

Reference:
1. Australian Doulas, Code of Practice 2025
"https://www.australiandoulas.com.au/code-of-practice/"Code of Practice - Australian Doulas

The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.

Women and Newborn Health Service
King Edward Memorial Hospital
374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008
(08) 6458 2222
kemh.health.wa.gov.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2026

7332_WNHS_1025