

# Information for Support Person staying overnight in the Maternity Ward

**One (1) nominated support person is welcome to stay overnight only if they are here to help and support.**

## Safety and Security

Please notify your Midwife if you plan to stay as a support person overnight. It is important that we know of your Intention to Stay, especially in the case of an emergency. Ideally, you should arrive in the ward prior to completion of visiting hours at 8pm.

## Expectations

As a support person, you are welcome to stay overnight on the condition you are here to help and support.

Participation and involvement in both mother's and baby's care are encouraged. It is important that you understand that there are physical and emotional changes that new Mums can go through, resulting in sleep deprivation and teary episodes. Staying overnight is designed to be an opportunity to provide practical assistance and emotional support, during what can be a challenging time.

In taking this opportunity, you agree to the following conditions:

- You must be 18 years of age or older, with partners only exempt through negotiation.
- Patient's children under 18 years are not permitted to stay overnight under any circumstances.
- You must be appropriately dressed at all times. No sleepwear is to be worn outside your room.
- Hospital staff may enter your room at any time during your stay.

- Movement around the ward is to be kept to a minimum, especially at night due to the potential delays in staff being able to facilitate re-entry to the ward. Please only use your mobile phone in your room or outside the ward. Use in corridors may be disruptive to other patients and staff.
- Your presence must not delay care of your loved ones or housekeeping. Attention will always remain on mother and baby.
- There may be occasions when staff need to speak with your loved one privately. Please respect this need if requested to leave temporarily.
- Aggressive behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- If you are unwell with any illness **you will not be permitted to stay.**

## Any breach of this may result in immediate withdrawal of your overnight stay privileges

### Access

Entry to the Maternity Inpatient Unit is via the hospital's Main Reception, 24 hours a day. The Maternity Entry doors are locked between 8pm and 10am. General visiting hours are between 10am-8pm daily. For access people are required to communicate with reception or with staff via the intercom afterhours. Additional support people or anyone that is intoxicated will not be permitted entry.

### Parking

Parking is available 24 hours a day within the multi-story car park, accessed via Olsen Ave or Parklands Drive. Cost is as per schedule at [www.secureparking.com.au](http://www.secureparking.com.au). A covered walkway

from the car park to B Block 1st Floor is available for use, in addition to ground floor access via the main foyer.

## Interpreter services

Gold Coast Health provides interpreter services for patients who are from non-English speaking backgrounds. If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please indicate this on your registration form and advise Gold Coast Health prior to your appointment.

**Interpreter services are provided free of charge to all patients who require the service, including non-Medicare patients.**



**For further information or support, please contact:**

**Women's and Maternity**

**Gold Coast University  
Hospital**

**1 Hospital Blvd, Southport,  
4215**

**Phone: 1300 744 284**