

All Wales Guideline for Maternity Transfers from Community and Freestanding Midwifery Units

Guideline information

Guideline number: 1242

Classification:
Clinical

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N/A – New Guideline

Local Safety Standard for Invasive Procedures (LOCSSIP) reference:
N/A

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) standards:
N/A

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Approval information

Approved by: Maternity Written Document Control Group

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07/11/2027

Summary of document:

This guideline aims to cover for instances where transfer is required from community or a Free Standing Midwifery Unit (FMU). Whilst the scope is predominantly for instances where transfer is required in labour or shortly after birth, the principles can be used in all cases when transfer is required from these settings.

Scope:

The purpose of adopting the All Wales Guideline for Maternity Transfers from Community and Freestanding Midwifery Units Is to provide guidance to all clinicians who may be involved when transfer from community or FMU is required.

The guidance uses the term “woman” (pronouns she or her) to describe individuals whose sex assigned at birth was female, whether they identify as female, male or non-binary. It is important to acknowledge that it is not only people who identify as women for whom it is necessary to access women’s health and reproductive services. Therefore, this should include people who do not identify themselves as women but who are pregnant or have recently given birth. Obstetric and midwifery services and delivery of care must therefore be appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to the needs of those individuals whose gender identity does not align with the sex that they were assigned at birth.

To be read in conjunction with:

[1299 - Midwifery Led Care Guideline](#) – opens in new tab

Patient information:

Include links to [Patient Information Library](#)

Owning group:

Maternity Written Document Control Group
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Executive Director job title:

Sharon Daniel - Interim Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience

Reviews and updates:

1.0 – New Guideline

Keywords

Transfer, Community, Freestanding Midwifery Unit, Consultant Unit, Ambulance Service

Glossary of terms

FMU - Freestanding Midwifery Units
MLC - Midwifery-led Care

Key points:

Maternity Transfer from Community and Freestanding Midwifery Units.

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Scope

For clinicians who may be involved when the transfer of a woman from community or Freestanding Maternity Unit is required. Whilst the scope is predominantly for instances where transfer is required in labour or shortly after birth, the principles can be used in all cases when transfer is required from these settings.

Aim

The aim of this document is to:

- Cover for instances where transfer is required from community or a Free Standing Midwifery Unit (FMU).

Objectives

The aim of this document will be achieved by the following objectives:

- Detail to support communication and provision of information for women and Families in relation to transfer in labour or shortly following birth.
- A process from managing transfer of women and neonates receiving maternity care in FMU or in the community in Wales, including assessment of appropriate mode of transport.
- Principles for safe transfer.
- Detail to support robust communication with ambulance services when required.
- Process for escalation when a call is not graded as expected.
- Detail in relation to escalation within WAST.
- Detail to support communication with the ambulance services in relation to pre-birth planning.
- Principles for reporting, auditing and monitoring.

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<https://wisdom.nhs.wales/all-wales-guidelines/all-wales-guidelines/all-wales-guideline-for-transfers-from-community-and-fmu/> - opens in new tab