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Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Obstetric Assessment Unit criteria for Maternity Services, Singleton.

Author: Maria Nash
Date approved: April 2026
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Version: 1

Obstetric Assessment Unit hours

Opening hours:

24 hours a day 7 days a week for acute maternity admissions.

Telephone number: 01792 517904

All referrals via community midwife/obstetrician/GP or women who are self-referring need to be telephoned through to the above number, so that staff are aware of the intended. The exception of this are women with limited ability to communicate in English who have open access the triage.

Postnatal women who are still under the care of community midwifery services, should be seen by the community team first.

Admission Criteria

Any gestation

- Hypertension requiring hospital review (see hypertension guideline)
- Suspected PET

Over 17 weeks gestation

- Abdominal Pain or vaginal bleeding
- Fall/Trauma to abdomen
- Suspected Pre-Term Labour
- Suspected Pre-Term Pre-Labour Rupture of Membranes (PPROM)
- Suspected sepsis
- Labour assessments for women with complexity
- Rupture of membranes for women with complexity
- Diabetic with unstable blood glucose readings

Over 24 weeks gestation

- AFM/DFM over 24 weeks gestation (Out of ADAU hours) or in addition reports abdominal pain/painful contractions.
- Abnormal fetal heart rate / pattern on auscultation (excluding ectopic beats)
- Unable to auscultate fetal Heart in community

Postnatal women up to 28 days post birth

- Heavy continuous lochia after five days or any concerns
- Offensive lochia or passing large clots at any time
- Suspected mastitis/infection/temperature (>37.8 if taken or feels hot, feverish or extremely cold)/feeling unwell
- Cellulitis >2cm spreading
- erythema (skin tone changes) from wound edge
- Pyrexia / fever
- Tachycardia, hypotension
- Abscess or collection
- Purulent exudate
- Systemically unwell

- Malaise / lethargy or nonspecific general deterioration. Systemic markers of infection (e.g., raised white cell count/CRP)
- Crepitus (palpable grating between tissues).
- Abdominal distension and pain
- Urinary retention
- Signs or symptoms of pre-eclampsia
- Hypertension > 150/100 on 2 occasions 30 minutes apart
- Persistent headache following epidural or spinal procedure

Exclusion Criteria

- Any woman transferred via ambulance (to be admitted directly to labour ward)
- Medical Reviews - Any woman with non-pregnancy problems / symptoms that do not require an obstetric review should be referred to relevant department and not OAU
- Hyperemesis (see below for review process)
- ECVs
- Routine postnatal check

This list is not exhaustive and there will be times where discussions with the obstetric team will be required for women who fall outside of this criteria list.

Review of women with Hyperemesis

- Any women with hyperemesis should be seen in ADAU. These women should have booked appointments via GP.
- Outside of ADAU working hours (Monday-Friday 08.30-15.30 or Bank Holidays) if an appointment is essential and cannot wait until the next working day, the gynae registrar who takes the referral should admit women <20 weeks gestation to ward 4 for review and rapid hydration. If there are no beds available, then women should be admitted to ward 19 and not AAU.
- All women over 20 weeks gestation requiring admission should be admitted to ward 19 and not OAU.
- If there are no beds available on ward 4 or ward 19 to admit women then the labour ward coordinator should be informed and if necessary, a decision made with the manager on call as to where these women are admitted.

NB. Please note in most cases these women will not be emergency cases, and appointment times should be offered in daytime hours.

**Maternity Services
Checklist for Clinical Guidelines being Submitted for Approval by Maternity Quality
& Safety Group**

Title of Guideline:	Obstetric Assessment Unit criteria for Maternity Services, Singleton.
Name(s) of Author:	Maria Nash
Chair of Group or Committee supporting submission:	Antenatal Forum
Issue / Version No:	1
Date approved by Antenatal Forum	April 2026
Next Review / Guideline Expiry:	April 2029
Details of persons included in consultation process:	Antenatal Forum
Brief outline giving reasons for document being submitted for ratification	
Name of Pharmacist (mandatory if drugs involved):	
Please list any policies/guidelines this document will supercede:	
Keywords	assessment criteria, OAU