

Current Services

Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit

Who we are

We are a team of 20 midwives who run the Community Maternity Unit at Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

The Community Maternity Unit is a free standing unit which is separate from a Consultant Led Maternity Unit. This means that there are no Obstetric consultants, anaesthetic and neonatal medical staff on site for labour and birth.

We strive to provide safe, patient centred and effective care in partnership with the women we serve. We aim to include women in the decisions regarding their care in order to improve outcomes for mother and baby.

What we do

The midwives at the Unit are specially trained to care for women throughout pregnancy, labour and after babies are born.

We provide a wide range of ante and postnatal care on an outpatient basis, with support from Obstetricians and other healthcare staff, between the hours of 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Around 12,000 appointments are made at the unit each year for antenatal and postnatal care.

We provide 24 hour cover to respond to demand at the Birthing Unit or to women in their homes choosing a home birth, and to provide telephone advice in the early stages of labour.

Antenatal Care

Ante natal care is the care a woman will receive from health care professionals during pregnancy and before birth, to check that both the woman and their baby are well. Ante natal appointments at the Unit include:

Booking Appointments

We are the first point of contact when women find out they are pregnant. This appointment helps us to plan the care for women and their baby. Information obtained at this visit will enable the midwife to advise women which pregnancy pathway is appropriate for them and they may be referred to an Obstetrician.

Midwife Led Appointments

During pregnancy women can expect to see a midwife eight or nine times. Appointments with the midwife take place within GP surgeries, surgery or at the Unit.

Obstetrician Appointments

Women who are on the red pathway will also attend the Unit to see the Obstetrician who is a doctor who specialise in the care of women during pregnancy, labour and after birth. There are around 2500 appointments a year.

Screening and scan appointments

During pregnancy women will be offered screening and scan tests to check on their health and also their baby's health. These take place at the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.

Ultrasound scans

All women are offered a minimum of two scans.

These include:

- 12 week scan to establish the due date of the baby and where you will be provided with a first scan picture
- 20 weeks to identify any abnormalities that may benefit from antenatal treatment or require early intervention following birth

Many women may be advised by the Midwife or Obstetrician that they require more scans



Early Pregnancy and Day Care Services

- If women have any concerns during their pregnancy, they may be asked to attend the early pregnancy or day care unit at the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit
- We also provide telephone advice for any concerns women have during pregnancy



Parent education and support classes

We regularly run at the Unit:

- Parent education classes
- Breast feeding support classes



Midwife Led Birthing Service

We provide one to one labour care for women who are on the green pathway in a relaxed, homely setting with the support of birthing aids such as birthing pool, aromatherapy and pain management using tens and pain relieving injection.

Some women may transfer during labour if they require additional support to manage their labour.

This year there have been 15 births at the Unit.

Under the proposal, the labour and birthing service currently provided at the Community Maternity Unit would be transferred to the Community Maternity Unit at Royal Alexandra Hospital Paisley. Home Births would continue.



Postnatal care

We provide care to women and their babies after birth.

When women are discharged from the hospital after having a baby they will be visited by the midwives who will monitor both their progress.



This will be from the Inverclyde midwives, who women may have met when attending for antenatal appointments.

