

# Shared Maternity Care with Non-affiliated Provider



## 1. Purpose

On occasions women who have been deemed as appropriate for shared maternity care request to undertake shared maternity care with a maternity care provider who is not affiliated with the Women's. This usually happens when the woman has nominated a provider who is unwilling to complete the necessary paperwork or fulfil the criteria to become a shared maternity care provider.

In some of these cases it is the opinion of the health professionals at the Women's that the woman may not present for appropriate antenatal care at the Women's or with a shared maternity care affiliate and is best served seeing a maternity care provider who is not affiliated with the Women's for part of her antenatal care.

The purpose of this guideline is to outline criteria for women to undertake a shared care arrangement for their antenatal care with a maternity care provider of their choice, who is not affiliated with the Women's.

## 2. Definitions

Not applicable.

## 3. Responsibilities

Staff caring for a woman during her antenatal care requiring shared maternity care with non-affiliated provider should follow this guideline.

## 4. Guideline

### 4.1 Criteria

Criteria for participation in shared maternity care by a provider who is not affiliated with the Women's.

### 4.2 Provider

#### 1. Qualification

- Fellow Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).

Evidence: to be confirmed via Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency website:

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/> by Shared Maternity Care Coordinator.

OR

#### 2. Qualification:

Medically registered practitioner who is not a Fellow of RANZCOG, and

- woman lives in >75 km from the Women's, and
- the registered medical practitioner works >50 km from the Women's.

Evidence: Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to check:

- Unconditional registration of medical practitioner Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>
- location of woman and practitioner is > 75 km as above from the Women's (eg by Google maps).

### 4.3 Woman

1. Woman to request shared care with the specific doctor.
2. Woman informed that the doctor has no affiliation or credentialing with the Women's.
3. Woman offered registration with alternative shared maternity care providers or hospital review
4. Woman refuses to see an affiliated shared care practitioner or return to the hospital for antenatal visits.

### 4.4 Process

1. Woman deemed eligible to participate in shared maternity care requests care with a doctor who is not affiliated with the Women's.

## Guideline

# Shared Maternity Care with Non-affiliated Provider



2. Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to explain to woman:
  - that her nominated doctor is not a shared maternity care affiliate and not credentialed with the Women's
  - to encourage registration with an accredited shared maternity care affiliate
  - to encourage hospital review for antenatal care.
3. Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to establish with woman that she is unlikely to attend antenatal appointments at hospital or with an accredited shared maternity care affiliate.
4. If the woman continues to want shared care with a non affiliate doctor, the following occurs:

If doctor is an obstetrician	If doctor is NOT an obstetrician
Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to confirm on AHPRA website that nominated doctor is a listed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Medical Practitioner</li><li>- There are no conditions</li><li>- Under specialty as: <i>Obstetrics and gynaecology</i></li></ul>	Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to confirm woman resides >75 km from the Women's (e.g. by Google maps)
	Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to confirm doctor works > 50 km from the Women's (e.g. by Google maps)
	Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to check on AHPRA website that nominated doctor is a listed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Medical Practitioner</li><li>- There are no conditions</li></ul>

5. Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to contact Head of GP Liaison Unit by email with details of woman, proposed community provider, and details under point 4 (above).
6. Head of GP Liaison Unit to confirm that it is appropriate to register woman for shared maternity care with the provider.
7. Shared Maternity Care Coordinator to send the doctor a letter explaining registration for shared care for this patient in this pregnancy only (refer to [Appendix 1](#)).
8. Copy of email response by GPLO and letter to be filed in woman's medical record.
9. Provider is not put on shared maternity care list or database.

These arrangements would need to be repeated for every woman in every pregnancy; even if they are requesting care with the same non shared maternity care affiliate as another patient.

The establishment of these arrangements is at the discretion of the Women's.

## 5. Evaluation, monitoring and reporting of compliance to this guideline

The Shared Maternity Care Coordinator will collect data on the number of women receiving care under this arrangement and why.

## 6. References

1. The Women's intranet: [Shared Maternity Care Accreditation and Reaccreditation: General Practitioners and Obstetricians](#).
2. Guidelines for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates, Mercy Hospital for Women, The Royal Women's Hospital, Sunshine Hospital, November 2002. Published by Mercy Hospital for Women. The Royal Women's Hospital and Sunshine Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria.
3. Lippmann L, The Role & Achievements of Victorian Public Sector GP Liaison Officers, Australian

## Shared Maternity Care with Non-affiliated Provider



Government Primary Health Care Research Evaluation Development (PHCRED) Strategy Jan 2006, p iii.

4. Memorandum of Understanding between, Mercy Public Hospitals Incorporated, Northern Health, The Royal Women's Hospital and Western Health; May 2014 (currently under review with plan to be updated December 2017)

### 7. Legislation/Regulations related to this guideline

Not applicable.

### 8. Appendices

**Appendix 1:** [Letter to General Practitioner](#) (who is not accredited as a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate)

Complete details then print on Women's letterhead.

Please ensure that you adhere to the below disclaimer:

#### PGP Disclaimer Statement

The Royal Women's Hospital Clinical Guidelines present statements of 'Best Practice' based on thorough evaluation of evidence and are intended for health professionals only. For practitioners outside the Women's this material is made available in good faith as a resource for use by health professionals to draw on in developing their own protocols, guided by published medical evidence. In doing so, practitioners should themselves be familiar with the literature and make their own interpretations of it.

Whilst appreciable care has been taken in the preparation of clinical guidelines which appear on this web page, the Royal Women's Hospital provides these as a service only and does not warrant the accuracy of these guidelines. Any representation implied or expressed concerning the efficacy, appropriateness or suitability of any treatment or product is expressly negated

In view of the possibility of human error and / or advances in medical knowledge, the Royal Women's Hospital cannot and does not warrant that the information contained in the guidelines is in every respect accurate or complete. Accordingly, the Royal Women's Hospital will not be held responsible or liable for any errors or omissions that may be found in any of the information at this site.

You are encouraged to consult other sources in order to confirm the information contained in any of the guidelines and, in the event that medical treatment is required, to take professional, expert advice from a legally qualified and appropriately experienced medical practitioner.

NOTE: Care should be taken when printing any clinical guideline from this site. Updates to these guidelines will take place as necessary. It is therefore advised that regular visits to this site will be needed to access the most current version of these guidelines.

Date

*Doctor's name*

*Business address*

Dear Dr ,

*(insert full name of pregnant woman)* is booked for pregnancy care at the Women's, but wishes to see you for some of her antenatal care.

Her EDD is *(insert EDD)*.

Unfortunately, you are not accredited as a shared maternity care affiliate at The Royal Women's Hospital (the Women's).

Nevertheless, *(insert full name of pregnant woman)* has requested on some antenatal care being provided by you. We hope you agree - please notify me if you would not like to provide this care.

She will require antenatal care by you at: 16 weeks, 22 weeks, 32 weeks, 34 weeks, 38 weeks, 39 weeks and 40 weeks (these are the minimum number of antenatal care visits).

In addition, she has antenatal appointments at the Women's at 28 weeks, 36 weeks and 41 weeks *(alter as appropriate)*

Please use her Pregnancy Hand Held Record to summarise your consultations, including investigations and results, as this is the main communication tool between the hospital and yourself.

If you have any non urgent queries or concerns please me.

If you have more immediate queries, please contact the on-call Maternity Registrar via the Women's switchboard on (03) 8345 2000.

Shared maternity care guidelines are available on the Women's public website:

<http://www.thewomens.org.au/SharedMaternityCareAffiliates>.

I have enclosed an application form for shared maternity care affiliation and invite you to apply.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have queries or concerns regarding the above.

Yours sincerely

Shared Care Coordinator  
The Royal Women's Hospital  
P: (03) 8345 2129  
E: [sharedcare@thewomens.org.au](mailto:sharedcare@thewomens.org.au)

Enclosed: SMCA accreditation form