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**Cross Border
Maternity Care**

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Patient information

Cross Border Maternity Care



Excellent patient care, together

Congratulations on your pregnancy. This information leaflet is for women who live within West Herts NHS Trust (Watford Maternity Unit), but have chosen to give birth at another hospital.

Choosing to give birth at a hospital outside of the area you live in is called cross boundary care. It means you will be looked after by two different NHS trusts during your pregnancy, birth and afterwards: the hospital where you are booked to have your baby, and West Herts Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

To receive antenatal care within West Herts you will need to complete a self-referral form to West Herts. This is done by completing the self-referral form here or scan the QR code to the right:

<https://www.badgernotes.net/SelfReferral/CareLocation/westherts>



It is important that you add into the free text box that you are booked to give birth at another trust but require antenatal care from West Herts.

Important things to consider when choosing cross boundary care

Your initial booking appointment, all scans, all specialist appointments, all consultant appointments, all unplanned/emergency maternity admissions and all blood and microbiology tests will need to be at your booked trust.

West Herts midwives will not be able to see any of your test or scan results or see or change any appointments at your booked hospital.

Your routine midwifery antenatal appointments will be provided by a West Herts Midwife. If you choose to have a homebirth you will need to transfer your care to West Herts as all homebirth in the area are covered by our midwives. Should you need to be transferred to hospital during your labour, this would normally be to Watford Hospital.

Your postnatal care will be delivered by West Herts midwives.

Your routine midwifery appointments will be documented on our maternity system (Badgernet). You will have access to this via an app and will be able to share this information with your main care providers, but you will have two separate sets of notes throughout your pregnancy. If you are choosing to give birth in a Trust that also uses Badgernet, your digital notes will be merged.

Different NHS Trusts sometimes have slightly different pathways of care. Our midwives are employees of West Herts and will follow our trust guidelines when deciding whether they need to refer you back to your booked hospital.

We work closely with our neighbouring trusts to make sure you and your baby receive the best possible care. Due to the different systems and guidelines involved, it is important for you to be aware that having maternity care across two different trusts could lead to a delay in receiving care. The most seamless way to receive care is to book to give birth at West Herts Hospitals.

How to contact us

Department name

Watford General Hospital

Vicarage Road

Watford

Hertfordshire WD18 0HB

Tel: 01923 217343 (ext: 7343)

Email: Westherts.maternitytriage@nhs.net

Hospital switchboard: 01923 244366

PALS

If you need this leaflet in another **language, large print, Braille or audio version**, please call **01923 217198** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net.



Language



Large Print



Braille



Audio

Survey - Friends and Family Test

We welcome feedback about your care, this feedback is shared with all staff so that we can improve patients' experience. Click this [link](#), scan the QR code with your smartphone or type in: bit.ly/4o3QVFJ.



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