

# SHARED MATERNITY CARE INFORMATION SHEET



Shared Care is a model of care available for women with an uncomplicated pregnancy in which their maternity care is shared between the Mercy Hospital for Women and an accredited general practitioner or accredited community health centre midwife.

## THE AIM

- To provide safe, community based care for both yourself and your baby.
- To provide better continuity of care before and after your baby's birth, in your own local environment with the GP or midwife of your choice while still giving you the benefit of the care of a level three maternity hospital.

## ANTENATAL VISITS & TESTS

### 1. Booking in visit

At this visit you will receive education from a hospital midwife, meet our shared care coordinator and see a doctor who will provide a medical check up and assess your suitability for shared care. You will have blood tests taken and the results of these will be sent to your shared care doctor.

### 2. Schedule of visits

Standard antenatal visits with your shared care doctor/midwife will occur at **16, 20, 26, 30, 33 & 38 weeks**. This may be modified according to each individual's needs.

At 40 weeks you will visit the hospital and subsequent visits will occur at the hospital antenatal clinic until delivery.

You will have 2 or 3 visits with an Obstetrician at the Mercy Hospital for Women Outpatients Department. These will occur at:

- 28-30 weeks when you will have
  - Glucose Tolerance Test
  - Midwives visit
  - Haemoglobin
  - If you have a negative blood group a test for antibodies will be performed
- 34-36 weeks
  - Low vaginal swab taken for Group B Haemolytic Streptococcus
  - Pre-booked caesarean if required pre-admission discussion will occur
  - If you have a negative blood group a test for antibodies will be performed
- 40 weeks

At all visits the following are assessed:

- Blood pressure
- Foetal movements/heart beat
- Routine weight & urine testing is not currently performed in low risk women, unless advised by your shared care doctor, midwife or obstetrician.

### 3. Ultrasound

The 18 week ultrasound will be discussed at the booking visit. It may be performed at the Mercy Hospital for Women or externally at an ultrasound centre recommended by your shared care doctor/midwife. Externally ordered ultrasounds may incur a cost to the patient.

#### 4. Prenatal screening tests

The Maternal Serum Screening test is a free blood test, which is offered to all women by the hospital or by your shared care doctor/midwife to have at 15-20 weeks of pregnancy. Through your general practitioner early combined ultrasound and blood test may be available between 10-12 weeks. These will be discussed at your hospital booking visit.

#### 5. Transfer of test results

- All results of tests performed at the hospital will be sent to your shared care doctor/midwife.
- You will need to bring to the hospital the results of any tests ordered by your shared care doctor (pathology and ultrasound).

#### 6. Medication

Any medication you are prescribed at the hospital must be obtained from the hospital pharmacy. Your medicine will cost about the same (or less) as it would at your local pharmacy. Please bring your Medicare card and your concession or safety net cards if you have one.

#### **WHAT TO BRING**

- You will need to bring your “**shared care card**” to each visit – this is the communication link between the hospital and your local doctor/midwife.
- You will also need to bring **results of any tests** ordered by your shared care doctor/midwife (pathology and ultrasound).

#### **DELIVERY AND DISCHARGE**

When you come into hospital in labour you should bring your purple shared care card. Your shared care doctor/midwife will be notified of your delivery. You will be visited at your home by our Mercy @ home midwives at least once after discharge. Your Maternal & Child Health Nurse will also contact you during your first week at home. A postnatal check for you and your baby is recommended with your shared care doctor/midwife, 6 weeks after the birth. You should ring to make an appointment for this visit, and check with the GP if a separate appointment is required for mother and also for the baby.

#### **CONTACTS**

If at any stage you are worried about yourself, you should first contact your shared care doctor/midwife. If they are unavailable you may contact the hospital Emergency Department. Any other queries should be directed to the shared care midwife.

Mercy Hospital for Women	8458 4444
Shared Care Midwife (Claire Walsh)	8458 4120 (Mon – Fri 0800 –1600 hours)
Emergency Department	8458 4000
Parent Education (hospital tours & classes)	8458 4152
Social Work Department	8458 4149
Breast Feeding Support Centre	8458 4677