

Maternity Care

Around 10 - 12 weeks the first or 'booking' appointment with the midwife here includes taking notes of any medical & family history, and discussion of your wishes for your care & delivery. Diet & blood test are discussed, including options for screening for Down's syndrome & spina bifida.

Some women need to be under a consultant obstetrician, but if there are no health or previous pregnancy problems, you may book 'midwife-led' care.

Blood tests are taken at the surgery by the midwife at about 16 weeks.

After this early appointment, you will have a detailed scan at around 20 - 22wks at the hospital. If everything is 'normal' you will be able to have the rest of your care at the surgery with the midwife, but if any problems arise, she can refer you immediately for assessment at the hospital.

As a rough guide, first time mothers are seen each 3 weeks to 34 weeks, then each fortnight. Second & subsequent mothers are seen less often in the early stages if all is well. These appointment plans are in accordance with nationally recommended (NICE) guidelines, but are always flexible in accordance with the mother's wishes & needs.

Women with identified medical or pregnancy problems, or twins may have more care at the hospital, but are still very welcome to see the midwife at the surgery.

Home births may be booked through the midwife if all is normal with the pregnancy and are conducted by two experienced midwives who attend from the hospital. If problems arise at a home birth, the mother is transferred immediately to hospital by paramedic ambulance.

Whether baby is born at home or in hospital, you will be visited at home after the birth of your baby for 2 - 4 weeks, depending upon your needs at the time.