

Shared Maternity Care at the Women's

What is shared maternity care?

Shared Maternity Care means that during your pregnancy you can see the same GP, obstetrician or community midwife for most of your pregnancy visits with some visits at the hospital. Together, the hospital and your chosen community doctor/midwife will 'share your care'. The birth of your baby is at the Royal Women's Hospital (the Women's) in Parkville.

Why choose shared care?

Shared Care is a popular choice for women who are healthy with a normal pregnancy.

In choosing Shared Care you:

- Have most of your care close to your home or work
- See the same doctor who gets to know you and your baby
- Build a relationship with your doctor and continue to see them after your baby is born
- Have fewer hospital visits

Shared Care doctors/midwives may charge some out of pocket fees. This amount varies. Please discuss any questions about this with your chosen doctor/midwife.

The Women's also has community clinics. If it is more convenient, you can choose to attend your hospital appointments at one of these instead of coming into the hospital. Shared Care is also available if you attend the Hospital Community Clinics. These clinics are located in Fawkner, Kensington and Moonee Ponds. For more information about the community clinics visit www.thewomens.org.au/CommunityClinics.

You may choose to stop Shared Care at any time during your pregnancy by contacting the Shared Care Coordinator. If you develop problems during your pregnancy Shared Care may not be suitable and your Shared Care may be ceased.

How does shared care work?

Your chosen doctor/midwife must be accredited with the Women's to provide Shared Care.

You can still do Shared Care if your usual GP is not accredited. The hospital will help you find an accredited community doctor/midwife. Visit www.thewomens.org.au/AccreditationAffiliatesList for more information.

At your first appointment at the hospital with a doctor, you will be given the choice of Shared Care if you

are healthy with a normal pregnancy. Please let the hospital doctor/midwife know if you would like to do Shared Care.

When you start Shared Care, the Shared Care Coordinator will provide you with a folder containing:

- Your pregnancy record
- The appointment details of your hospital visits
- A schedule of visits for your pregnancy care (please note that the hospital visits will be made for you, but you will need to organise your own local doctor/midwife appointments)
- Forms for any tests to be performed at the Women's

It is important to bring this folder to all your shared care doctor/midwife appointments and hospital appointments, including when you come in to have your baby. This is how the doctors and midwives communicate about your care.

For more information

Shared Care Coordinator

The Royal Women's Hospital

T 03 8345 2129

F 03 8345 2130

E sharedcare@thewomens.org.au

Other important contacts at the Women's

Royal Women's Hospital Switchboard

T 03 8345 2000

Childbirth Education/Hospital Tours

T 03 8345 2142

Physiotherapy/Dietitian Department

T 03 8345 3160

Women's Emergency Department

T 03 8345 3636

Women's Health Information Centre

T 03 8345 3045

Shared Maternity Care at the Women's – Schedule of Visits

This schedule lists the minimum visits recommended during your pregnancy care. These may vary according to your needs. It is important that you attend all your appointments.

Please note that it is your responsibility to book all appointments with your shared care doctor/midwife. The hospital will organise all your hospital appointments.

Confirmation of pregnancy	Visit your local doctor (GP) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A referral to the Royal Women's Hospital - Initial antenatal tests * - Down syndrome test (if you choose) *
15–17 Weeks	You will have your first visit at the Royal Women's Hospital or Community Clinic around now where you will see both a hospital midwife and doctor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Down syndrome test if not already done (if you choose) * - Additional antenatal tests as required * - Book your Childbirth Education classes or hospital tour: T 03 8345 2142
16 Weeks	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you)
18–20 Weeks	Ultrasound of your baby *
22 Weeks	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you)
28 Weeks	● Visit with hospital midwife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Routine check and MAP (Maternity Antenatal Pre-admission) appointment to discuss having your baby at the Royal Women's Hospital and discharge planning - Test for Diabetes, Full Blood Examination, Blood Antibodies * - If Rh negative blood type, Anti D injection given <p>If your previous birth was a caesarean you will also see a hospital doctor to discuss your birth options</p>
32 Weeks	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you)
34 Weeks ^	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you), or ● Visit with hospital doctor if Rh negative (Anti D injection) and vaginal swab for Group B Strep *
36 Weeks ^	● Visit with hospital doctor vaginal swab for Group B Strep , or ● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you) if Rh negative and had hospital visit and Anti D at 34 weeks
38 Weeks	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you)
40 Weeks	● Visit your shared care doctor/midwife (to be booked by you)
41 Weeks	● If you have not had your baby you will be seen by a doctor at the hospital. At this visit you are likely to have some tests to check the baby's heart rate and amount of fluid around your baby.*

● Shared Maternity Care Affiliate visit (Doctor/Midwife)

● Hospital Visits

* Tests which may be required

^ The location of your visit at 34 weeks and 36 weeks will depend on whether you are Rh negative (blood type)