

Samuel Johnson Community Hospital

Midwife-Led Maternity Unit
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Burton Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Working in partnership with

South Staffordshire 
Primary Care Trust

OBS/PREG/SJ/00010108
Prepared January 2008
For review January 2011

A large, close-up photograph of a baby's face, showing the eyes, nose, and mouth. The baby has light-colored eyes and a slightly open mouth, looking towards the camera.

The Samuel Johnson Midwife-Led Unit

A Natural Home for Childbirth



Welcome to Samuel Johnson Midwife-Led Unit

This is a small maternity unit that recognises pregnancy as a normal life event. The choices available to you will be clearly and honestly explained throughout your pregnancy and birth, acknowledging and respecting your individual needs.



Care is provided by a small team of Midwives and Maternity Support Workers, there are no doctors present on the unit. The staff are kind, friendly and highly skilled, they are trained to give complete care during pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period.

Services available at the Samuel Johnson Midwife-Led Unit

- Delivery of babies to low risk women
- Ultrasound scanning/Routine screening
- Preparation for birth and parenting
- Access to holistic therapy including aromatherapy and reflexology
- 24 hour access to midwifery advice
- Flexible postnatal care
- Family friendly advice and support

Is it for me?

The Samuel Johnson Midwife Led Unit is suitable for women experiencing a normal pregnancy, with no adverse medical history or previous pregnancy complications. A risk assessment to ensure you meet the criteria for booking at the unit will be undertaken by your midwife.

Midwives at the Samuel Johnson Unit invite you to make an informal visit to view the Unit and discuss your options.

Please telephone first to arrange your visit.



After the birth of your baby you will receive help and advice with feeding and adapting to parenthood.



Every effort will be made to make sure your stay is a happy one.



You and your partner can relax in our comfortable and homely environment.

Facilities include birthing rooms, 2 birthing pools, ensuite bathrooms, music centres, birthing balls, bean bags and reclining chairs. Your privacy and dignity will be respected at all times.



In addition to conventional pain relief such as Entonox or an injection of Pethidine, we offer holistic therapies. However an epidural is not available in this unit.

Your wish to deliver at the Samuel Johnson Midwife-Led Unit will be supported provided no complications arise during your pregnancy (the antenatal period). Giving birth is generally very safe for both the woman and her baby. Delivery in a midwife led unit offers a higher likelihood of a normal birth, with less intervention. In the event of a problem during the antenatal period, your midwife will arrange for a Consultant opinion. This may or may not result in you being informed that delivery at a Consultant Unit is advisable.

If a problem occurs during labour you will be transferred to a Consultant Unit where there is direct access to Obstetricians, Anaesthetists, Neonatologists and other specialist care including epidurals. Transfer will be by ambulance and a midwife will travel with you, transfer time will be approximately one hour. The transfer rate for women in labour is approximately one in five (20%).



Some possible reasons for transfer during labour or soon after birth may include:

- Waters breaking with no signs of labour
- The baby has a bowel movement before the birth into the waters surrounding the baby.
- Slow progress in labour
- Concerns about the baby's heartbeat
- Heavy blood loss
- Request for epidural in labour
- Placenta (afterbirth) retained
- Problems with the baby following birth

Unfortunately there are rare complications of birth where a transfer time of one hour could possibly result in a worse outcome for mother and baby than if they were in Consultant Unit with access to specialised care. Therefore Samuel Johnson Midwife-Led Unit is only suitable for women experiencing a normal pregnancy, with no adverse medical history or previous pregnancy complications. For your safety a risk assessment is undertaken at the beginning of your pregnancy to ensure you meet the criteria for booking at the unit.