

## Fact sheet

### Midwifery @ home

womensnewbornhealth.com.au

#### Midwifery Home Service

##### **A specialised midwifery service providing care for women and babies in the home.**

A team of experienced Registered Midwives provide a Midwifery Home service to women and their babies who live within the Western Sydney Local Health District. Returning to the home as soon as is practical after birth with continued support, is in the best interest of the mother and baby. This is supported by current evidence.

##### **Who is eligible for Midwifery@Home?**

All women are able to ask for the service. Women and babies will be seen by a midwife before discharge. Those living outside the Western Sydney Local Health District may be referred to a program in another Local Health District.

##### **How soon can I go home?**

Some women may like to consider going home from the birth unit after a short stay. For women following a Caesarean birth requests to discharge before 48 hours will be assessed by a doctor.

##### **What can you expect from us?**

Within the home the midwives provide assessment and care specific to women and their babies. Each family is given individual attention and the midwife will work with you on matters that may arise. The midwife will provide support and information so that you and your family can make decisions about appropriate care for you and your baby.

##### **When is the service available?**

Midwifery@Home offers a seven-day a week service. Our service may include follow up by telephone or a visit to the home environment. The visit will occur sometime between 9am and 4pm and generally lasts between 30-45 minutes. Usually no specific appointment time is given. Any individual requirements will be assessed at the time by the visiting midwife in collaboration with you and the family.

**In an emergency go straight to the nearest hospital Emergency Department or call 000.**

#### **What can you do to help us?**

Please ensure the midwife knows the address and telephone numbers of where you live or where you will be staying when you leave the hospital. Let your midwife know if you will not be at home the day your visit is due. We will ask you some questions about accessing your home. Please advise the service of any difficulties in locating your home.

#### **Safety for the Midwife**

Ensure your home is a safe workplace for our midwives by refraining from smoking, and by securing any animals and/or weapons. The midwives are unable to remove their shoes when visiting your home (WSLHD Uniform Policy July 2013). If this poses a problem for cultural or religious reasons please make this known so that alternative arrangements can be discussed.

#### **Caring for your documents**

You may be given hospital documents to pass onto the midwife on discharge from the hospital. Please keep these important documents in your baby's Personal Health Record.

#### **Is there a fee involved?**

Our Midwifery@Home Service is provided free to Medicare Card holders. For non-Medicare clients, each visit and any related services such as interpreters and pathology will be charged separately.

#### **WESTMEAD**

Hours: 8am to 8pm  
Phone: 0419 255 898

*After hours services are not available from Midwifery@Home*

Following the birth of your baby and on your return home your midwife will give advice regarding support services, including Child & Family Health Services. Refer to your baby's Personal Health Record for additional support and advisory services contact telephone numbers.

**We welcome further feedback on this brochure as a way of continually improving our service.**

#### **Send your feedback to:**

WSLHD-Get\_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au

