



Continuity of Midwifery Carer

# Introducing Northern Ireland's new model of maternity care



DoH

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)



Public Health Agency

## What is Continuity of Midwifery Carer?

Continuity of Midwifery Carer (CoMC) is a new model of maternity care that will provide integrated, appropriate and seamless care for all women through their journey from pregnancy and birth to early parenthood. This innovative model will be phased in during 2023 and will become the standard model of maternity care across Northern Ireland. This means that the majority of pregnant women will be able to benefit from Continuity of Midwifery Carer.



Each pregnant woman will have a named midwife who works in a small team of midwives. Your named midwife will be the key professional responsible for coordinating your care.

While all pregnant women need a midwife, you may also need to see a range of other specialists, including obstetricians, doctors, mental health professionals, allied health professionals or specialist midwives and nurses, depending on your particular needs. All of this will be delivered within the new model.

## What will Continuity of Midwifery Carer mean for me?

Evidence from the UK shows positive outcomes of this model of care. If you are cared for by Continuity of Midwifery Carer you are:



**more likely**  
to have a positive birth experience



**less likely**  
to have an assisted birth



**less likely**  
to require induction of labour



**less likely**  
to have your baby early



**less likely**

to lose your baby at any stage of pregnancy



**less likely**

to need an epidural for pain relief during labour



**more likely**

to know the midwife who will be supporting you in labour

## How will I be cared for?

- You will meet your named midwife at your booking appointment. This midwife will be responsible for planning and providing your care throughout your pregnancy.
- You will have a regular schedule of appointments with your midwife, or a member of your CoMC team. These can be flexible and arranged to suit both you and your midwife.
- If at any stage of your pregnancy you need to see a consultant or other medical specialist, your midwife may attend these appointments with you.
- You will have the chance to meet all the midwives in your CoMC team at 'drop-in' sessions, coffee mornings and antenatal education classes.
- Your CoMC team will be available 24/7 for labour and birth and will support you in all birth settings: home, free standing or alongside midwifery-led units and obstetric unit.
- If you had your baby in hospital, your midwife will support your discharge from hospital and will visit you at home after the birth.
- Your midwife will coordinate the handover of care to your health visitor, to make sure you and your baby get the care you need.

## What if a CoMC midwife is not available?

If more than one woman from the same CoMC team goes into labour at the same time, it may not be possible for a member of the team to attend your birth. We want to assure you that you will still receive the support and care you need during this time, even though this may not be provided by your CoMC team midwife.

## Your local Continuity of Midwifery Carer team

Email your local team or find contact numbers from Trust websites:

Belfast HSCT	<a href="mailto:comc@belfasttrust.hscni.net">comc@belfasttrust.hscni.net</a> <a href="http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net">www.belfasttrust.hscni.net</a>
Northern HSCT	<a href="mailto:comc@northerntrust.hscni.net">comc@northerntrust.hscni.net</a> <a href="http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net">www.northerntrust.hscni.net</a>
Southern HSCT	<a href="mailto:comc@southerntrust.hscni.net">comc@southerntrust.hscni.net</a> <a href="http://www.southerntrust.hscni.net">www.southerntrust.hscni.net</a>
South Eastern HSCT	<a href="mailto:comc@setrust.hscni.net">comc@setrust.hscni.net</a> <a href="http://www.setrust.hscni.net">www.setrust.hscni.net</a>
Western HSCT	<a href="mailto:comc@westerntrust.hscni.net">comc@westerntrust.hscni.net</a> <a href="http://www.westerntrust.hscni.net">www.westerntrust.hscni.net</a>