

Ref. No: 2682
Date: 07/07/26
Subject: Maternity-emergency departments

REQUEST

This section relates to your maternity department(s):

1. Please tell me whether your maternity unit(s) have 24/7 presence of consultant obstetricians – by which I mean at least one consultant obstetrician being present, on site in the maternity unit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. If no to question 1, please specify which hours of the day and week there are no consultant obstetricians present, on site in the maternity unit.
3. Please specify the on-call requirements for consultant obstetricians in terms of any maximum travel times or distances from home to hospital.

This section relates to your emergency department(s)

4. Please tell me the longest time any patient spent in your emergency department (in days or hours) from arrival to departure (ie. when they were admitted, transferred or discharged) in each of the following years:
 - a. 2026 to date
 - b. 2025
5. Please tell me how many patients spent over seven days in your emergency department (ie. when they were admitted, transferred or discharged) in each of the following years:
 - a. 2026 to date
 - b. 2025
6. Please tell me how many patients spent over 31 days in your emergency department (ie. when they were admitted, transferred or discharged) in each of the following years:

- a. 2026 to date
- b. 2025

This section relates to your Policy department

7. Please tell me whether the trust has any policy in place to avoid the following groups of patients being cared for in corridors in emergency departments? If yes, please provide details.

- a. children
- b. mental health patients
- c. patients with learning disabilities, neurodivergence, autistic patients
- d. patients with physical disabilities
- e. patients who have dementia, confusion or delirium

This section relates to your emergency department(s)

8. Can the trust confirm whether any of the following groups of patients have been cared for in corridors in emergency departments since 1st January 2026? Please indicate Y (yes) or N (no) next to each one:

- a. children
- b. mental health patients
- c. patients with learning disabilities, neurodivergence, autistic patients
- d. patients with physical disabilities
- e. patients who have dementia, confusion or delirium

RESPONSE

Maternity STHK

This section relates to your maternity department(s):

1. Please tell me whether your maternity unit(s) have 24/7 presence of consultant obstetricians – by which I mean at least one consultant obstetrician being present, on site in the maternity unit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We have both non resident and resident consultants working in a rota .Approximately we cover 135 hours every week as consultant on site .

2. If no to question 1, please specify which hours of the day and week there are no consultant obstetricians present, on site in the maternity unit.

At the maternity unit at Whiston we have a resident consultant on the rota or a senior resident registrar on the rota with a second senior registrar grade 24/7. There is not specific day of the week or the hours during a working day that are not covered by the rota on a regular basis. It is dependent on leave and absences. There is always an on-call consultant off-site 14 hours overnight 4 days a week and for 24 hours a day over a weekend (Friday to Sunday).

3. Please specify the on-call requirements for consultant obstetricians in terms of any maximum travel times or distances from home to hospital.

The maximum travel time to be on-call off-site is 30 minutes.

Maternity (S&O)

This section relates to your maternity department(s):

Please tell me whether your maternity unit(s) have 24/7 presence of consultant obstetricians – by which I mean at least one consultant obstetrician being present, on site in the maternity unit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

No

If no to question 1, please specify which hours of the day and week there are no consultant obstetricians present, on site in the maternity unit.

Consultant presence onsite on Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 9 pm. Then oncall from home (non resident).
Saturday and Sunday: Onsite 8:30- 1 pm and 7-9 pm. Rest would be non resident oncall.

Please specify the on-call requirements for consultant obstetricians in terms of any maximum travel times or distances from home to hospital.

10 miles or within 30 mins from base hospital.

Medicine & Urgent Care

Please tell me whether the Trust has any policy in place to avoid the following groups of patients being cared for in corridors in emergency departments. If yes, please provide details.

For children, the Trust does not provide corridor care within the Emergency Department as paediatric patients are cared for within a separate Paediatric Emergency Department.

For patients with mental health needs, learning disabilities, neurodivergence or autism, physical disabilities, and those with dementia, confusion or delirium, the Trust does not have a specific policy that excludes these groups from being cared for in corridor areas. However, all patients are clinically assessed and triaged on arrival to the Emergency Department. The Trust works collaboratively with specialist nursing and interface services where appropriate, and reasonable adjustments are implemented whenever possible. Patient alerts are used to identify individuals who may require additional support, and recommendations regarding care needs are considered on arrival. Where feasible, these patients are prioritised for cubicle placement rather than corridor areas.

Can the Trust confirm whether any of the following groups of patients have been cared for in corridors in emergency departments since 1 January 2026?

The Trust can confirm the following:

Children: No. Children are cared for within the separate Paediatric Emergency Department and are not nursed in corridor areas.

Mental health patients: Yes.

Patients with learning disabilities, neurodivergence or autism: Yes.

Patients with physical disabilities: Yes.

Patients with dementia, confusion or delirium: Yes.

Combined ED Response