

# Information for the Caesarean Support Person

## Operating Suite Information for the Person Supporting a Woman Undergoing a Caesarean

The Operating Suite is a foreign environment where a multitude of essential people and equipment are present. The staff's first priority is the mother undergoing the caesarean section.

In the interest of the patient's welfare, rights and privacy, visitors are kept to a minimum in the Operating Suite.

Provision is made for a spouse or significant other to accompany the mother requiring a caesarean section for the delivery of her baby. If you've been asked to read this information, the support person may be you.

On entering the Operating Suite, you will be requested to change into theatre attire. You will then be accompanied by a member of staff to a designated waiting area whilst theatre staff get the mother ready for surgery. Once the mother is ready in theatre, a theatre staff member will come and collect you and escort you to theatre.

Your primary role is to be by the mother's side throughout the duration of the procedure providing support and reassurance. It is asked that you remain seated at **ALL** times at the head of the bed, unless you are asked to come and cut the cord by the midwife.

Should an emergency situation arise, you may be asked to leave the Operating Suite and will be accompanied from theatre by a staff member. You may be requested to wait in another room within the Perioperative Unit or return to the Inpatient Unit (IPU). Staff will provide updates to explain the situation to you as soon as possible.

We recognise the birth of any child is special, and often the recording of the event is important. Still photos of the baby after delivery are permitted using a camera or mobile phone. If all is going well for mum and baby, a staff member may be able to take photos for you if they are free so you can enjoy this special moment. **Please note that video cameras are not permitted in the Operating Suite, nor the recording of videos on a mobile phone.**

At the completion of the procedure, all attempts will be made by the Recovery Room Staff and Midwife to ensure the baby stays with the mother. At times this is not possible or appropriate and will be assessed on an individual basis.

*It is important to us that the birth of the baby is a positive experience for everyone involved.*

EGHS would like to thank our consumers for reviewing this information.



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