

MIDWIFERY GROUP PRACTICE

Information for Pregnant Women

Women's and Children's Program

What is Midwifery Group Practice?

Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) is a model of maternity care where women receive one to one care with a midwife for their pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal care. The primary midwife is on call for labour care for the women in her caseload. Each midwife works with one or two other midwives who meet the woman and provide an antenatal visit during pregnancy so that they are known to the woman if back up is required (when the midwife is on leave or not on call when labour begins). Each group of midwives is called a MGP.

Who is able to be in MGP?

MGP is suitable for healthy women with no complications and women suitable for Vaginal Birth After Caesarean (VBAC) who have an interest in their care being provided by a midwife throughout pregnancy, birth and the early postnatal period.

How do I book into MGP?

When completing the Eastern Health maternity booking form please tick the Midwifery Group Practice option. Bookings will be completed after 8 weeks of pregnancy. If you have no complications or are suitable for VBAC you will be allocated to a midwife prior to your first visit.

What can I expect from MGP?

Pregnancy –The MGP midwife provides care throughout pregnancy through regular appointments within the hospital. Consultation with and referral to other maternity clinicians is made according to clinical need.

Labour and birth - Care will be provided within the hospital. Your primary midwife will be on call for your labour and birth. Consultation and referral to other maternity clinicians will be according to Eastern Health guidelines.

Postnatal care – The length of your hospital stay is expected to be between 4 and 24 hours. You can choose to be discharged home following the birth of your baby directly from Birth Suite. If required, care will be provided in the postnatal area. Home visits will be provided by your midwife. Once you are discharged from Eastern Health your care will then be provided in the community by your Maternal & Child Health Nurse and your GP as required.