



**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# LANCASHIRE TEACHING HOSPITALS

# MATERNITY

# ASSESSMENT

# SUITE

## HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT MIDWIVES



V1 April 2025



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# Welcome

## To Maternity Assessment Suite

We are very happy to welcome you to Maternity Assessment Suite (MAS). We hope to make your time here as enjoyable and informative as we possibly can and all our staff are ready and willing to help with anything you may need.

Maternity Assessment Suite (MAS) is situated within the Sharoe Green Unit (Ground floor) at Royal Preston Hospital and is located near to the ultrasound department. MAS is responsible for triaging women from 16/40 gestation up until 4 weeks postnatal, with pregnancy related urgent concerns. We see around 800 women per month in triage and see a variety of different women with medical and obstetric complications. Women are able to self-refer to the triage service via telephone, and we also accept referrals from community midwives, antenatal clinic, GPs, ED and urgent care. The department consists of 2 clinical triage rooms, and 5 bed spaces all equipped with CTG monitors and appropriate equipment for triage. We have a waiting area for women and a water machine for both patients and staff, along with a staff kitchen.

Admissions to triage can include:

- Reduced fetal movements
- Labour Assessment for complex care women (Midwifery led will be triaged in PBC)
- Assessment for ? ruptured membranes
- Vaginal bleeding
- Postnatal readmissions
- Hypertension / Pre eclampsia
- Pain
- Abnormal scan reviews
- Urgent pregnancy related complications

# What to Expect

## When you first arrive on MAS

During the night time hours, we relocate the service from the ground floor and run MAS from the Maternity A ward, this is because only 1 midwife staffs the service at night and so cannot work alone on the ground floor. When you attend for your shift, report to maternity ward A where the MAS staff will be located prior to moving down to the ground floor following handover.

## Tasks you will perform

- Participate in implementing the BSOTS system (see next pg)
- Telephone triaging
- Antenatal and postnatal checks
- Perform and interpret observations including BP profiles
- CTG interpretation
- Fetal Heart Auscultation
- Speculum examinations
- Vaginal examinations
- Labour assessments
- Amnisure and fibronectin testing
- Giving various medications
- Cannulation and IV administration
- Providing support, advice and care planning
- Taking bloods and interpreting results.
- Follow ups
- Documenting all actions on Badgernet -our paperless system.
- Working with all members of the multidisciplinary team.
- SBAR handovers
- Checking and actioning results

# Guidelines and Policies

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT POLICIES  
AND GUIDELINES - THESE CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE INTRANET ON  
HERITAGE**

**The most relevant guidelines to look for are:**

- [Maternity Assessment Suite SOP](#)
- [Reduced Fetal movements](#)
- [Fetal Growth restriction - detection and management](#)
- [Pre eclampsia and eclampsia](#)
- [Readmission of mothers and babies](#)
- [Prelabour rupture of membranes](#)
- [Anaemia - maternity](#)
- [Ferric disomaltose prescribing and administration guideline](#)
- [Intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy](#)
- [Antepartum Haemorrhage](#)
- [Antenatal Corticosteroids](#)

**This list is not exhaustive and time should be spent familiarising  
yourself with all guidelines**

# Birmingham Symptom-Specific Obstetric Triage System (BSOTS)

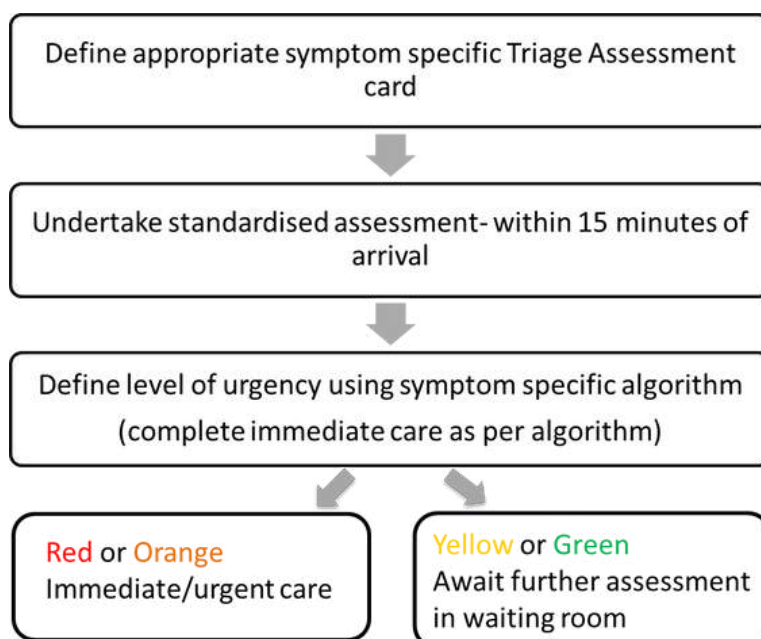
**Triage system designed specifically for maternity as triage department identified as an issue by clinical staff**

- To ensure the patient receives the level and quality of care appropriate to their clinical needs
- We have been informally 'triage-ing' women but the new system means we have a tool to make sure they are seen based on clinical need (and not how busy the unit is, or the staff are)

## **BSOTS Bundle includes:**

1. Completion of a standard clinical triage assessment by a midwife within 15 minutes of the woman's attendance
2. Standardised symptom-specific algorithms to allocate clinical priority and the immediate care and further investigations of the eight most common reasons for attendance
3. Paperwork to support and standardise completion of the clinical tasks required

## **Assessment-Triage Flowchart**



# Important Numbers

2222

Emergency bleep - clearly state your location and the nature of the emergency i.e 'Obstetric Emergency - Maternity Assessment Suite.'

To Bleep: 66 -> number you want -> your number

4000

On call Obstetric SHO

4001

On call Obstetric Registrar

4154

On call Anaesthetist

52-4495

MAS number

**SAM HINDLE**

MAS Manager  
01772 524976

**'Obstetric Emergency'**

This will alert DS co-ordinator, the obstetric team, the anaesthetic team, the neonatal team and the theatre team. There are many instances such as Cat 1 CS, cord prolapse and PPH when this would be activated.

# General Information

## What to bring on your first day

- Uniform
- ID badge
- Fob watch (useful to have)
- Lunch; we have a fridge in our staff kitchen you can use, please ensure a sticker with your name and date is placed on any items stored in the fridge otherwise its at risk of being disposed of. We have a canteen and shops in the unit should you wish to buy your lunch on the day.
- Drinks bottle – its very important to keep hydrated on shift, we have a water machine in the unit for both staff and patient use. There are also hot drinks facilities and milk you may use in the staff kitchen.
- Note pad and pen – you may find it useful to keep note of any important information/guidance to aid your learning journey throughout your time on placement.

## Changing/Catering facilities

We have a small number of lockers where you can store your personal items, but due to lack of space this is limited so please do not bring large bags! We have a 7 microwave you are welcome to use, a geyser to make hot drinks and cutlery available which should be washed after use.

## Hours of work

You will be notified of your shifts prior to starting placement and these are the shifts you may be rostered to work: Early = 07.30 – 15.30 (30 minute break) Late = 12.30 – 20.30 (30 minute break) Long Day = 07.30 – 20.30 (2x 30 minute breaks) Night = 20.00 – 08.30 (2x 30 minute breaks) Due to the nature of MAS, it is anticipated that you will only workday shifts and not night shifts in the area. The learning experience is much better during the daytime so we will try to ensure that you are not rostered on night shifts where possible.



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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU SOON**