

Case-loading: what it is and how it affects you

This leaflet provides information for women being case-loaded by a student midwife throughout their pregnancy and the early postnatal period. If you have any further questions, please ask your midwife.

As part of their training, student midwives must 'case-load'. The student midwife's aim is to follow and assist in a woman's care throughout her pregnancy and for a short time after in order to be a part of the whole journey of having a baby. If you have been chosen as a 'case', this means that the student midwife following you will try to be involved in as much as the process as possible, including attending antenatal appointments, birth and postnatal appointments.

Why have I been selected?

You have been chosen to be case-loaded because you have booked to have your baby with the Royal Berkshire Hospital where your student midwife is training, and applies whether you have your baby on the Delivery Suite, Rushey Birth Centre or at home. There are a few situations where your student midwife may have to stop following you and your pregnancy, such as if you move out of the area, choose to have your baby at another hospital, or circumstances change in your pregnancy, where it would no longer be appropriate for your student to be involved.

Why should I be involved in case-loading?

The main benefit of case-loading for you is extra support in your pregnancy, birth, and after your baby is born. It means that you get continuity of care from someone you know, even if your midwife changes or you haven't met the midwives who look after you in hospital and after your baby is born. The student midwife is learning and will always be working with a qualified midwife, so you will always get the right care for you and your baby.

You can decide at any time to stop being case-loaded. It is completely your choice and you have the right to change your mind by just informing your midwife.

Do I need to do anything?

There is nothing extra you need to do to be case-loaded. The student midwife following you will be in contact with your midwife to find out your appointments and will try to be at as many as possible. Unfortunately, there may be occasions where they are unable to attend due to other educational commitments. If you would like the student case-loading you to attend additional occasions, such as scans or parent classes, please inform your midwife.

Please be aware that student midwives are unable to provide personal contact details and therefore all contact will be through your community midwife.

When you ring the hospital to inform them you are in labour, either for a hospital or home birth, please tell them that you are being case-loaded and the name of the student midwife case-loading you. The hospital will then contact your student midwife and if they can make it, they will come to your intended place of birth to care for you, alongside a qualified midwife.

It would also be useful to show this leaflet to the midwife looking after you. Please do not attempt to contact the student midwife yourself.

Further information

If you have any questions about case-loading, please do not hesitate to ask your midwife or student midwife. Thank you for allowing your student midwife to be a part of your experience.

Name of Student Midwife case-loading you: _____

More information is available on the Trust website: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Karina Davis, Midwife

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