

Progress achieved as of 2019 in the Supported Care Pathway in Irish Maternity Services



National Women & Infants Health Programme

The National Maternity Strategy, *Creating a Better Future Together, 2016-2026*, provided a strategic roadmap for the development and delivery of maternity services in Ireland around a defined model of care.

COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY SERVICES

A core component of the National Maternity Strategy's Model of Care "is the establishment of a community midwifery service, as an outreach service services from the hospital, working alongside the public health nurse services and general practice service, that will provide the women with integrated care as close to home as possible".

This service was to be provided by a team of midwives who will rotate between the community and hospital thereby supporting the woman through all stages of her care continuum. This care pathway, the supported care pathway, will be available to women based on their risk profile thereby enabling women to see the most appropriate professional based on their clinical needs. Broken down into its three main components, the supportive care pathway can be looked at from an antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care period.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), in its role of driving and advancing the implementation of the National Maternity Strategy, targeted significant investment in additional midwifery resources across the 19 maternity services in 2018. The objective of this investment which totalled an additional 77 midwifery posts, was to enable services to further develop and/or deploy the supportive care pathway and to enhance senior midwifery expertise in the services by means of additional CMM2 and AMP posts.

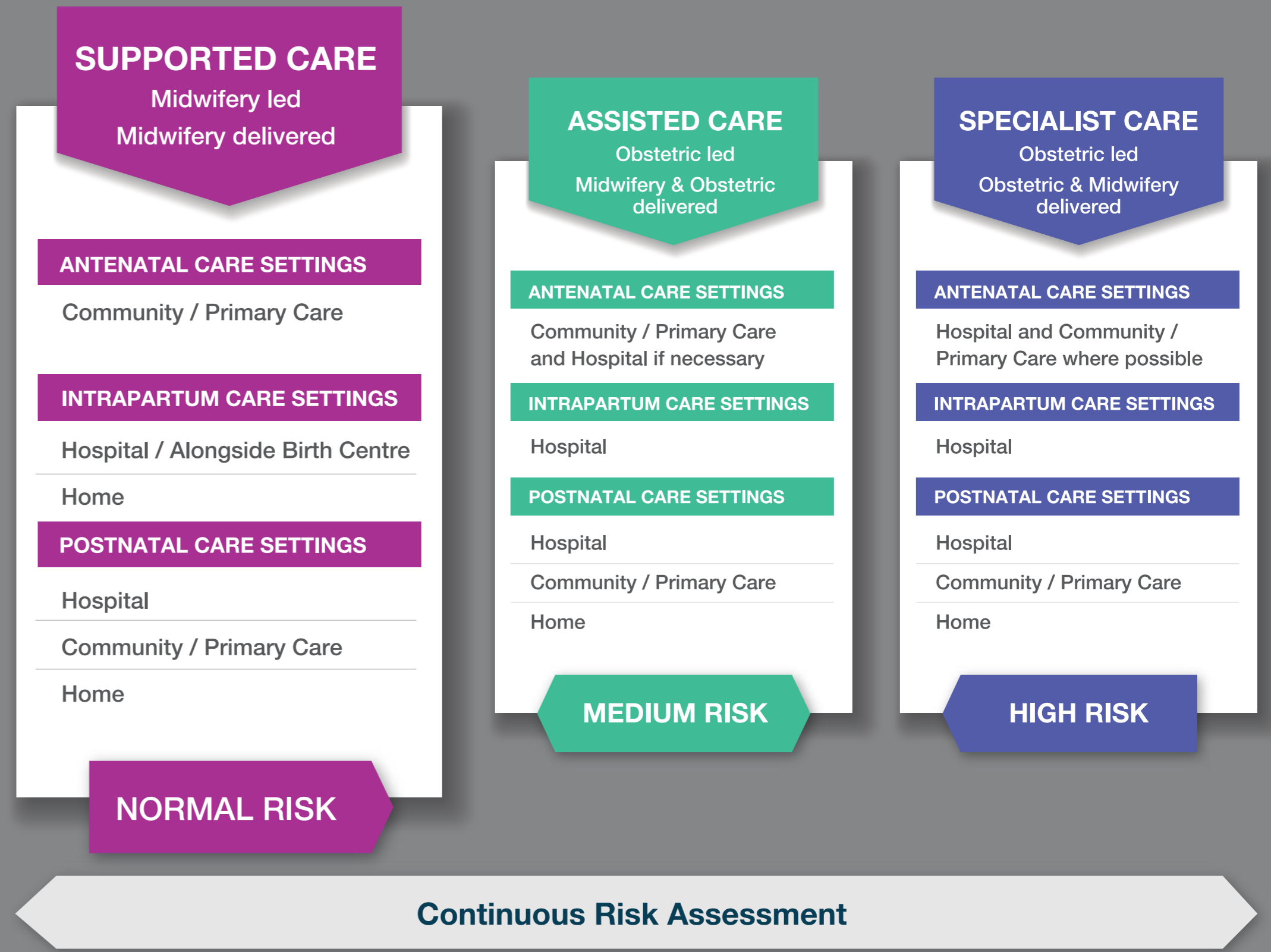
Late in 2018, it was determined by NWIHP that a baseline exercise would be undertaken of all 19 maternity services with a view to:

- Reviewing the impact that the additional midwifery resources have had in maternity services;
- Assessing the level of development of the supported care pathway across the 19 services;
- Ascertain the priorities at local level regarding the further development of midwifery services; and
- Informing NWIHP at national level regarding the next phase of investment and actions required.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN CARE SETTINGS

Care Pathways

GP & Lead Professional



The impact of this funding on Supported Care Pathway

<p>19 Maternity services nationwide</p>	<p>114 Delivery suites (inc. home-away-from-home suites)</p>	<p>978 Maternity services inpatient beds</p>	<p>GPs All services providing supported care pathway do so on a shared model of care with GPs</p>
--	---	---	--

ANTENATAL CARE

<p>16 of 19 maternity services have the supported care pathway</p>	<p>10-35% of women are managed in the supported care pathway</p>	<p>2 Primary models of clinical governance – midwifery model or consultant model</p>
<p>15 of these 16 services had a community-based presence</p>	<p>10 of the 16 services provided booking in clinics in the community</p>	<p>3 Models of accessing care pathway – women seek directly, opt in or opt out</p>

INTRAPARTUM CARE

<p>2 Midwifery Led Units (MLU) in place designated 24/7 midwifery staffing for continuity of care</p>	<p>14 of 19 services engage with the HSE National Homebirth Service</p>
<p>3 Maternity services provide an integrated homebirth care service</p>	<p>16 of 19 have a senior midwifery decision maker (CMM 2) available 24/7 in their delivery wards</p>

POSTNATAL CARE

<p>11 of 19 maternity services have in place Early Transfer Home (ETH)</p>	<p>1-5 ETH package consists of between 1-5 visits depending on needs</p>
<p>7+ ETH packages can be extended beyond 7 days as needed</p>	<p>5-30% of women accessing ETH services across the 11 services that have ETH in place</p>

MATERNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

<p>19 Significant variations exist across the 19 services as to the standard of infrastructure available.</p>	<p>10 There are 10 labouring pools available with one used for birthing.</p>
<p>11 There are 11 home-away-from-home delivery suites in Ireland including those in MLUs.</p>	

SCANNING SERVICE

<p>19 All 19 services provide dating scans.</p>
<p>15 4 15 services provide anomaly scanning to all women presenting, with the remaining 4 provide anomaly scanning based on clinical indications and are actively working towards full compliance.</p>

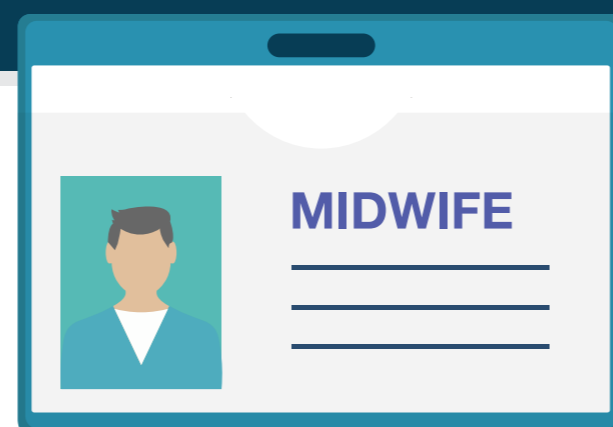
SPECIALISED CARE PATHWAYS

<p>19 All services reported having in place structured referral pathways with tertiary centres for the care and management of the woman and/or baby as clinically required.</p>
<p>The scope and range of specialised care pathways within individual maternity services, is dependent on the availability of expertise within the service and the wider clinical community, as is appropriate.</p>

NEXT STEP

- Funding of 12 AMP posts to drive the implementation of the Model of Care, including integration of the HSE National Home Birth Service;
- Deployment of Hopscotch in all maternity services, a tool to support and empower women on their labour journey;
- Work in partnership with HIQA and DoH to support the National Maternity Experience Survey;
- Roll out of National Healthcare Communication Programme across the maternity services;
- Progress a National Communication Campaign comprising of an on-line Service Directory for Maternity Service and a suite of podcasts on social media platforms;
- Launch of National Antenatal Education Standards; and
- Further development of home-away-from-home birth suites in a number of services.

THE ROLE OF THE MIDWIFE



The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant.

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8

Contact: Angela Dunne, Director of Midwifery
Email: angela.dunne4@hse.ie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The NWIHP would like to acknowledge with thanks the work and input of the Directors of Midwifery and their teams in each of the 19 maternity services in compiling this data.



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

