



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



## **Statement of Purpose**

# **Maternity Services of St. Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny**

**2019**

**Revision 2**

## **Introduction**

St. Luke's General Hospital Maternity Services deliver antenatal care, intrapartum care and post-partum care to women across Carlow / Kilkenny and adjoining counties of Laois and Tipperary. St Luke's General Hospital Carlow-Kilkenny is situated about one and a half miles from the centre of Kilkenny City. The hospital provides a wide range of health services for over 155,000 people in Carlow-Kilkenny and the surrounding counties.

St. Luke's General Hospital is a Model 3 statutory hospital and is part of the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG). The hospital was originally opened on the 18th December 1941 to serve the county of Kilkenny as a general hospital. St Luke's General Hospital took over acute hospital care for County Carlow in 1986. The Maternity Services have over --- staff who deliver maternity services across two individual sites.

## **Aims and objectives of Maternity Services, SLGH**

### **Aim:**

- To provide evidence based, high quality, safe and individualised care to women and babies by skilled professionals.

### **Objectives:**

- To recognise that for the vast majority of women, childbirth is a natural and normal event
- To ensure where obstetric interventions is necessary, it will be readily available and of the highest quality
- To ensure that all midwifery practice is evidence based and will be evaluated and updated as required
- To ensure that all obstetric practice is evidence based and will be evaluated and updated as required
- To educate women to suit their needs and encourage their active participation in pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood
- To provide a supportive and dignified environment for mothers, babies and families
- To provide care for the unwell child when needed.

- To create a culture of safety and quality throughout the department
  - To encourage education and research
  - To achieve the standards outlined in The National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026, HIQA National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services 2016 and National Standards for Bereavement Care following Pregnancy Loss 2016
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**Services provided:**

Maternity Services in SLGH provide a range of antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal and Special Care for babies in the area. These include:

- A 29 bedded unit providing antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care
- A Special Care Baby Unit with 5 cots providing care to babies over 34 weeks gestation
- 5 delivery/ labour ward beds with a 24 hour epidural service and theatre suites in Main Theatre to support Caesarean Sections and any other surgical procedure which may be required
- Hospital outpatient antenatal clinics in Kilkenny (Monday, Thursday and Friday including midwifery led clinics and consultant led clinics)
- Outreach antenatal clinics in Carlow (Wednesday including midwifery led clinics and consultant led clinics)
- Antenatal Education Classes in conjunction with a Multidisciplinary Team
- Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit provides a first trimester ultrasound service on an in-patient and out-patient basis and is led by a Clinical Midwife Specialist in Obstetric Ultrasound and a Consultant Obstetrician (Monday – Friday 09.00-13.00)
- Fetal Assessment Unit provides a second and third trimester ultrasound service on an in-patient and out-patient basis and is led by a Clinical Midwife Specialist in Obstetric Ultrasound and a Consultant Obstetrician (Monday – Friday 14.00-17.00)

- Obstetric Assessment Unit cares for women both antenatally and postnatally and accepts women via self referral, GP referral and Antenatal clinic referral for clinical assessment of their needs (Monday – Friday 08.00-20.00)
- Bereavement support and pastoral care – Clinical Midwife Specialist in Bereavement and Loss. The loss of a baby during pregnancy or just after birth is devastating for families. The aim of the Clinical Midwife Specialist in Bereavement and Loss is to provide as much support and assistance as possible to affected families at this sad time.
- Breastfeeding support and education – Clinical Midwife Specialist in Lactation. The Clinical Midwife Specialist in Infant Feeding is an advocate, clinical expert, collaborator, educator, facilitator and promoter of breastfeeding. She works with families and staff to help reach their breastfeeding goals.
- Neonatal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme – We will offer your baby a routine hearing screening test before your baby is discharged from hospital. This test uses quick and simple methods to check the hearing of all newborn babies. One to two babies in every 1,000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears. It is not easy to identify that a young baby has a hearing loss. This hearing screening test will allow those babies who do have a hearing loss to be identified early. Early identification is known to be important for the development of the child. It also means that support and information can be provided to parents at an early stage.

### **Antenatal Care**

Antenatal care ensures the well-being of both mother and baby before the birth. It provides opportunities throughout the pregnancy to discuss and document a plan of care for the birth with doctor and midwife.

Women can choose to have their antenatal care provided in public or private sector. All options are suitable for shared care with the woman's family doctor.

Antenatal care options within SLGH include **Midwifery** led services and **Consultant** led services.

### **Midwifery led care**

Midwifery care is led by a Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioner. The Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioner is the clinical lead for all aspects of normal midwifery practice in SLGH. She leads a team of 6 midwives to provide

- Assistance to women in making choices about pregnancy and childbirth
- Care for and assist women the experience of pregnancy and childbirth
- Encourage and support breastfeeding
- Provide post delivery follow up care including an Early Transfer Home Service

### **Consultant Led Services**

An initial booking visit is followed by regular appointments which are usually shared between the GP and one of a team of hospital doctors - Consultant Obstetrician, Registrar or Senior House Officer. The Consultant Obstetrician's work in teams and have overall responsibility for the woman's care but the woman will not see that Consultant at every visit. If admitted to hospital during her pregnancy the woman's care will be managed by the consultant on-call for that day. When she arrives at the hospital for the birth of her baby, she will be cared for by the labour ward midwives and an on-call obstetric team. If any problems arise the consultant on-call will be involved.

### **Labour and Birth Services**

The labour ward is managed by a Shift Leader and a team of experienced midwives who provide midwifery care in partnership with the woman and in collaboration with doctors and other healthcare professionals.

There are 5 labour suites. Each room is designed and equipped to provide a safe birth. Natural or Pharmacological Methods of pain relief are available and facilitated by experienced midwives who are there to guide and support the woman and her birth partner. If complications or problems arise, the midwives refer to the doctor as necessary.

### **Baby Security System**

There is a computerised baby security system in SLGH for the safety of all babies. A security tag is placed on the baby's leg in the labour ward and is removed when the baby is discharged from the hospital.

## Management and Staffing

**Total staffing complement (in full time equivalent):**

**Medical:**

Grade Name	Headcount	WTE
Consultant	4	4
Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors	18	18

**Paediatric:**

Grade Name	Headcount	WTE
Consultant	6	5.5
Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors	16	15.1

**Midwives:**

Grade Name	Headcount	WTE
Director of Midwifery	1	1
RAMP	1	1
CMM3	1	1
CMM2	2	1.96
Shift Leader	6	6
CMM1	1	1
CMS	3	2.56
CPC	1	1
Staff Midwife	43	39.63

**Special Care Baby Unit:**

Grade Name	Headcount	WTE
CMM2	1	1
Staff Nurse	13	9.36

**Other Patient Care:**

Grade Name	Headcount	WTE
Health Care Assistant	6	4.61

**Services Shared with General Hospital:**

- Allied Healthcare Therapy
- Anaesthetic and Theatre Department
- Catering Department
- Clinical Engineering and Maintenance Departments
- CSSD
- Finance Department
- General Medical and Surgical Services
- Household Department
- Human Resources
- Laboratory Services
- Medical Records and Clerical Department
- Psychiatric Services
- Purchasing and Stores
- Radiology Services
- Risk Management

**Organisational Structure:**

The Person with overall and accountability and responsibility for the service is Ms Anne Slattery - General Manager for St. Luke's General Hospital.

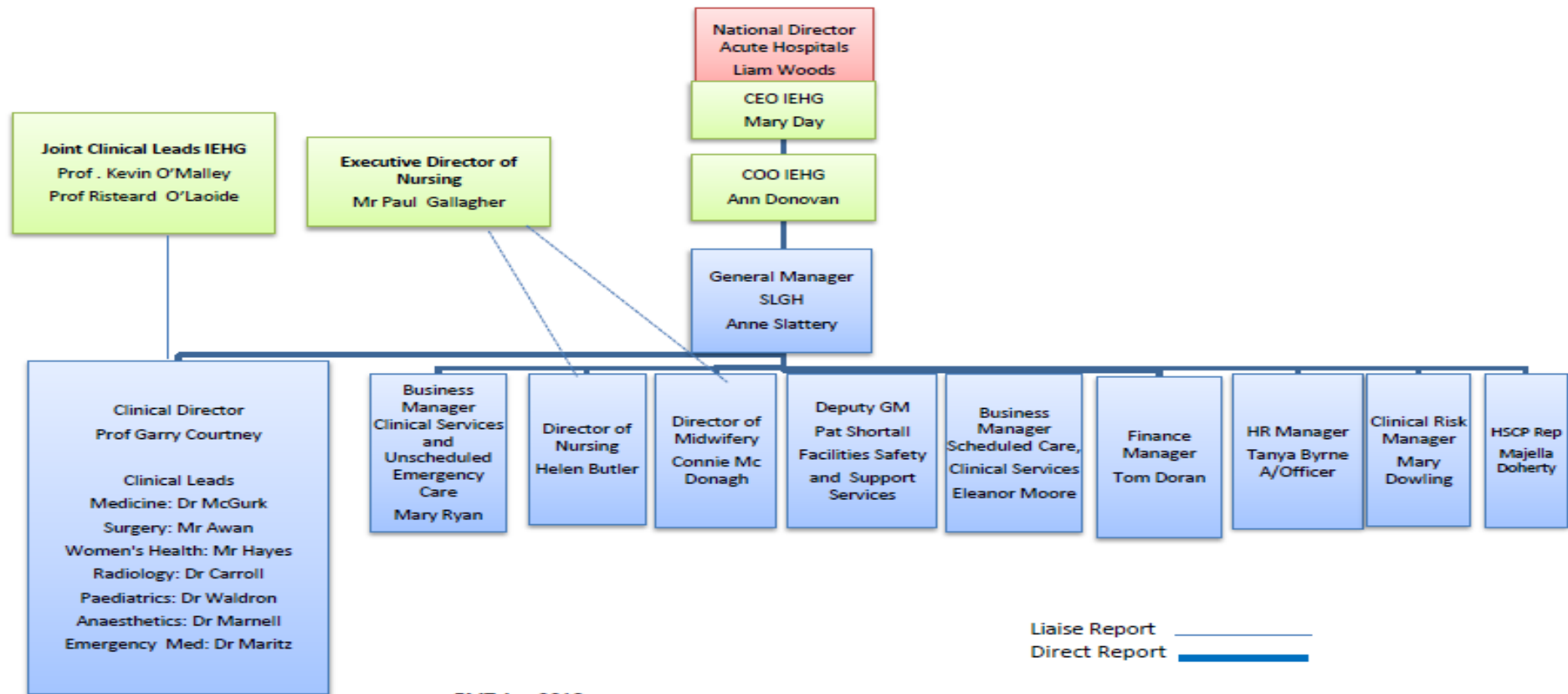
Clinical Director – Prof Garry Courtney

Director of Midwifery – Ms Paula Power (Acting)

Clinical Lead for Department – Mr Trevor Hayes (Consultant Obstetrician)

Clinical Lead for SCBU – Dr Wasim Asif (Consultant Paediatrician)

# Reporting Structures: SLGH Carlow Kilkenny Senior Management Team



EMT Apr 2018



## Wellbeing and Safety

### **Engagement with Service Users:**

Woman and family centred care is intrinsically important to developing clinical safety and effectiveness. Good patient engagement is shown to improve patient self-management and quality of life. Patient feedback is encouraged through every clinical interaction by all of our staff. In addition, the hospital embraces 'Your Service Your Say', patient satisfaction surveys and invitations to service users to partake in steering groups as appropriate.

### **Dealing with Complaints:**

The Freedom of Information/Medico Legal Department co-ordinates all FOI, Data Protection, admin access, medico legal requests together with coordinating all 'Your Service Your Say' Comments, Compliments and Complaints feedback for St. Luke's General Hospital, including the Maternity Services. All verbal and written complaints, compliments and comments are acknowledged, logged, investigated and responded to. This department also liaises with those providing feedback and heads of maternity services. They also co-ordinate meetings with complainants, clinicians and relevant heads of departments to address complex/sensitive complaints and process and manage all FOI requests.

### **Risk Management:**

The hospital adopts a pro-active approach to incident management and incident reporting. Patient Safety incidents are identified, reported and managed in line with the HSE Incident Management Framework and Guidance (2018). Serious adverse events are escalated and investigated through the appropriate process of 'Internal Review or Systems Analysis Investigation'. All clinical incidents are reported onto NIMS (National Incident Management System). The hospital operates an integrated process for the management of risk in accordance with HSE Integrated Risk Management and Supporting Guidance 2017. Maintaining a Department Risk Register is a critical element of this process. The Risk Register establishes a prioritised agenda for the

management of risks. It provides the hospital management team and departmental management team with a high-level overview of the organisation's risk status at any particular point in time and becomes a dynamic tool for the monitoring of actions to be taken to mitigate risk.

#### **Clinical Quality and Patient Safety:**

- The Maternity Governance Group meets monthly to develop, deliver, champion, implement and evaluate a quality and safety programme for Maternity Services.
- The Clinical Risk Management department provides recommendations and support for a framework of risk management and patient safety which leads to effective governance within Maternity Services and the general hospital.
- The Hospital Quality and Safety Executive meetings are held on a monthly basis and Maternity Services are represented by the Director of Midwifery. The committee is responsible for ensuring that the hospital identifies and introduces mechanisms to review and monitor the effectiveness and quality of patient care. Assurance on developments and quality improvements are sought, in addition any patient safety concerns are brought to the attention of Committee in keeping with National Policies and Procedures. Clinical quality management measures are discussed with Medical, Nursing, Midwifery and Head of Department participation.
- Relevant maternity KPI's are also escalated on a monthly basis to the Ireland East Hospital Group.
- A multidisciplinary audit committee with a yearly audit plan is in place for the Maternity Services of SLGH

#### **Education:**

All staff are encouraged in their continuous professional development. The Dr Jim Mahon Library and Education Centre, which was part funded by the RCSI and UL is available to all staff for education and training. UCD is the academic partner affiliated to the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG). Maternity services in St. Luke's Hospital also work with other academic institutions, RCOG, WIT and UL. St. Luke's Maternity Unit has been accredited as a designated training

centre for various students to complete practical placements including BSc Midwifery, BSc Nursing and HDip PHN from UCD, UL and WIT. We also facilitate EMT trainees and doctors on BST rotation from RCOG. St. Luke's Maternity Services facilitates Maternity Bereavement Care Programme in conjunction the RCNME for the South East of Ireland.

**Policies, Procedures and Guidelines:**

Maternity Services in St. Luke's General Hospital operates in line with National and International evidence based practice. These are available as hard copies on the Maternity Floor or on a shared electronic folder. A Policy, Procedure and Guideline (PPG) group is in place which monitors the review date of all PPGs and is responsible for development of new PPGs once the need for same has been identified.

**Self Care for Staff:**

Employee Assistance is available to all staff. Initiatives such as meditation and yoga classes have been available to staff free of charge. A wellness room has been designed within the hospital for all staff to avail of. Breastfeeding rooms are located within the hospital for staff who return to work and continue to breastfeed. There is a very active social club for staff to join if they wish to do so.

**Religious Support:**

The Chaplaincy Department is staffed by a Catholic Priest 5 days per week, 24 hour cover during these 5 days. Catholic Priests within the Parish are available to service users outside of these hours. Local Ministers for other Christian denominations or Religious Faiths can be contacted upon request. Service users wishing to avail of support from their own Religious Faiths are welcome to do so. All religious services are supported within the Maternity Services of SLGH.



