

## CONSENT FORM

(Midwife Focus Groups FINAL v1.1: 3 March 2016)

Title of Study: Factors influencing the utilisation of alongside and free-standing midwifery  
units in England: A Mixed Methods Research Study

**REC ref:** *(to be added after approval given)*

**Name of Researcher:**

**Name of Participant:**

**Please initial box**

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet version number  
xx dated xx xxx 2016 for the above study and have had the opportunity to ask  
questions. ☐
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at  
any time, without giving any reason, and without my legal rights being affected.  
I understand that should I withdraw then the information collected so far cannot  
be erased and that this information may still be used in the project analysis. ☐
3. I understand that relevant sections of data in the study may be looked at by  
authorised individuals from the University of Nottingham, the research group  
and regulatory authorities where it is relevant to my taking part in the study. I  
give permission for these individuals to have access to these records and to  
collect, store, analyse and publish information obtained from my participation  
in this study. I understand that my personal details will be kept confidential. ☐
4. I understand that the focus group will be recorded and that anonymous direct  
quotes from the focus group may be used in the study reports. ☐
5. I agree to take part in the above study. ☐

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**Name of Participant**

**Date**

**Signature**

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Name of Person taking consent

Date

Signature

2 copies: 1 for participant, 1 for the project notes

## Data Collections Tools

NIHR funded research: Factors influencing the utilisation of alongside and free-standing midwifery units in England: a mixed methods research study.

Phase One: service evaluation mapping maternity facilities configuration and organisation in all 120 Trusts providing maternity care in England.

Trust:

Present configuration of maternity facilities:

The data in the Table below has been collected, and is owned by, Which? Birth Choice. It was prepared by BirthChoiceUK and shared with us for the purposes of this research, under agreement with Which? Birth Choice.

Please confirm that the data below are correct for your Trust?

Facility type	Name of unit	Birth room No.	Births p.a. 2011-12	% of hospital births in MU
OU				
AMU				
FMU				

Abbreviations: Obstetric-led Unit - OU; Alongside Midwifery-led Unit - AMU; Freestanding Midwifery-led Unit - FMU;

Midwifery-led Unit – MU (referring to either or both AMU and FMU).

How is the staffing of the different facilities organised?

- Do the MUs have core staff?  
If so, what is their role (egg midwife, MSW) & what bands are MU midwives?
- Is the MU staffed 24 hours a day?
- Do midwifery staff rotate between facilities?
- Are midwifery staff moved between facilities (AMU (+/- FMU) and OU) within or between shifts?  
If so, how often, in what circumstances and for how long?

- Are MU(s) closed at any time?

If so, which ones(s), how often, for how long and what is the main reason for closure?

- What role, if any, do community midwives play in the MUs?
- Do you have any caseloading midwives?

If so, where do they work, and what percentage of women receive caseload care?  
and

Do they accompany, or continue providing care for, women who transfer to an OU during labour/birth?

How is booking and entry to the MUs organised?

- Can women book directly with the MU, and if so, when?
- Do you have an opt-in or opt-out policy for your MU(s)?

If so, how is it managed, and does it work for you, do you have plans to change the policy?

- Do you have written MU booking or entry eligibility criteria (gestational age, maternal age, BMI, parity, previous c.section etc)?

Are there different criteria for AMUs & FMUs?

Can women who don't fit the criteria have their baby in an MU?

If there are exceptions to the eligibility criteria, are these on a case by case basis or is there an informal agreement which facilitates this, or some other arrangement?

What is the midwifery management structure for MUs?

- Is there a midwifery clinical lead for the MU?  
If so, who is their line manager? (post, band and site)
- Is there a consultant midwife attached to the MU(s)?

Physical location, layout and facilities of AMUs:

- Where is the AMU relative to the OU?
- Do your AMU(s) have a separate entrance from the OU(s)?
- How many birth pools do you have in your AMU/FMU (what proportion of birth rooms have a pool)?

What access do medical staff have to the AMU(s)?

- Is any specialist care provided in your MU(s)?

- Do neonatal or obstetric specialists provide any care in your AMU?  
If so, what is the nature of the care provided? For example, do obstetric staff undertake instrumental assisted births, or perineal repairs in the AMU? Do neonatal staff attend births for resuscitation or review of babies?

In relation to the future configuration of your Trust's maternity facilities:

- Are there any plans for opening or closing maternity units in the next two years?
- Are there plans to change the MU management structure or staffing organisation?
- If so, what is the nature of change(s) planned?
- What is the time frame for the change(s)?

Have the 2012 changes in commissioning arrangements affected your organisation, provision or planning of maternity services?

Thank you for assisting the Midwifery Units Project.

Further information and contact details

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## Topic Guides



### **Factors influencing the utilisation of alongside and free-standing midwifery units in England: A Mixed Methods Research Study**

#### **Midwife Focus Groups**

##### **Draft Topic Guide**

(Prompts will evolve and develop during Phase 1 and 2 of the study).

Facilitator introductions

Study background/purpose of the focus group/interview

Confidentiality/Focus Group Rules/Audio recording

Ice-breaker questions (Have you heard/seen....)

Prompts:

1. What birthplace options are available in this Trust?
2. What information/advice are women given about birth place options?  
What are the barriers to the use of MUs? (prompts: organisational structure, managerial structure, opt-in or opt-out)
3. What needs to change to improve their utilisation?  
What are the facilitators for more effective use of MUs? (prompts: organisational structure, managerial structure, opt-in or opt-out)  
Are there other factors, outside the Trust's control, which you believe act as barriers or facilitators for MUs?

## **Factors influencing the utilisation of alongside and free-standing midwifery units in England: A Mixed Methods Research Study**

### **Service-User Focus Groups/Interviews**

#### **Draft Topic Guide**

(Prompts will evolve and develop during Phase 1 and 2 of the study).

Facilitator introductions

Study background/purpose of the focus group/interview

Confidentiality/Focus Group Rules/Audio recording

Ice-breaker questions (Have you heard/seen....)

Prompts:

1. What birthplace options are available in this Trust?
  - a. Were you aware of midwifery units when you were pregnant?
2. Where did you plan to give birth?
  - a. Did this change at any time?
  - b. What were the key issues you thought about in making this decision?
3. When did you decide where you wanted to give birth?
4. What information did you receive about birth choices, during your last pregnancy?
  - a. Who gave you this information?
  - b. Was it an influence on your decision?
5. If you had a hospital birth, is there anything which may have helped you plan an MU birth?
6. What are the things that make it more difficult to give birth in an MU?
7. What are the things which make it easier to give birth in an MU?
8. Have your previous experiences influenced your plans for your next birth?