

Module 8: Special Needs & Unusual Circumstances

In March 2016, bump2babe sent a comprehensive survey to the 19 maternity hospitals/units and 2 midwifery-led units in Ireland. Responses were returned between March 2016 and May 2017 and can be found on the website www.bump2babe.ie. Private Midwives completed the same survey documents in May 2017 and we have presented them here.

The information provided here is as was provided to us Private Midwives but please check with your caregiver to see if there have been any recent changes to services, policies or practices.

Blank spaces indicate no information was provided.

	County	
	Unit or hospital name	Private Midwives Ireland
Person completing the survey	Name	Liz Halliday
	Title	Deputy Head of Midwifery
	Contact details and working hours (in case we need to contact you for clarification)	liz@privatemidwives.com
Is the hospital (all departments) wheelchair accessible?	Yes	
	No	
	Some departments, please specify	
Are there wheelchair accessible toilets on every ward?	Yes/No	
	Additional comment	
Are there wheelchair accessible showers on every ward?	Yes/No	
	Additional comment	
Are there wheelchair accessible baby care areas (nappy changing, bathing, formula preparation)?	Yes/No	
	Additional comment	
Is there wheelchair accessible parking available?	Yes/No	
	Additional comment	
Please give details of the provisions made for parents with:	Visual impairment	This circumstance has not arisen
	Hearing impairment	This circumstance has not arisen
	Learning difficulties	This circumstance has not arisen

Please give details of the provisions made for parents with:	Non-English speaking/English as a 2nd language	We try to provide a midwife with a common language. Interpreters may be organised by the client.
	Mental health issues or psychiatric disorders	Referral is made to relevant body for support
	Teenage parents	This circumstance has not arisen
	Homelessness / other social issues including domestic violence	Our midwives are trained to safeguarding level 3. Referral will be made to appropriate body
	Drug or alcohol abuse	Referral to appropriate body
	Other, please specify	
	How are a mother's cultural or religious needs facilitated?	All women are treated as individuals and we respect cultural and religious needs
	Special support provided to women who have experienced Female Genital Mutilation	FGM is illegal in Ireland and thus is considered a safeguarding issue. As such the midwife will report to the Director of Midwifery with a view to reporting to the relevant authorities. Referral is made directly to the GP and appropriate support from IFPA is sought for counselling and medical care.
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a miscarriage	Miscarriage counselling services are available
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a diagnosis of a fatal fetal abnormality	24-hour support available
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a stillbirth	24-hour support available
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a preterm birth	24-hour support available
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a traumatic birth	We have a few midwives who have been trained in birth trauma and can offer counselling and referral as appropriate.
	Special support provided to parents in the case of a baby with a life limiting condition	24-hour support available
	Special support provided in other circumstances	All of our clients have access to their midwife 24/7 and if we are unable to cater to their needs an appropriate referral is made with their consent.
	How many bereavement counsellors are there on staff or available to parents? Please describe their services.	0

	Describe the training other staff undergo to support parents experiencing loss or other special circumstances.	Our midwives undertake yearly CPD in various topics and an appropriate midwife will be sourced for the client experiencing special circumstances
	For how long after the loss/the birth is support provided?	As long as the client requires, or is within the midwife's scope of practice
	What support is provided to partners and siblings of the baby?	Same as client.