

BOOKING RESOURCE: Maternity care support for D/deaf women and people

Equalities and Reasonable Adjustments

Part 1: This tool is for you and your midwife to discuss. It's to help us know you better and be able to decide what pathway of care would be most suitable for you. Don't worry if you're not sure what you need, this is designed to help you start the discussion – it's not a final decision and can change with you!

What is the nature of the disability and how do you want this to be communicated within the team?

What challenges does this bring?

Physical access
 Communication difficulties
 Barriers to understanding
 Environmental factors
 (sounds, smells or situations)
 Problems with routine procedures
 Other

What adjustments could we make for you in maternity care?

Antenatal:

Appointments
 Scans
 Hospital visits
 Clinic appointments

Labour and Birth:

Information giving
 Hospital or Home
 Environment

Postnatal:

Hospital inpatient stay
 Home appointments
 Hospital visits
 Drop in appointments

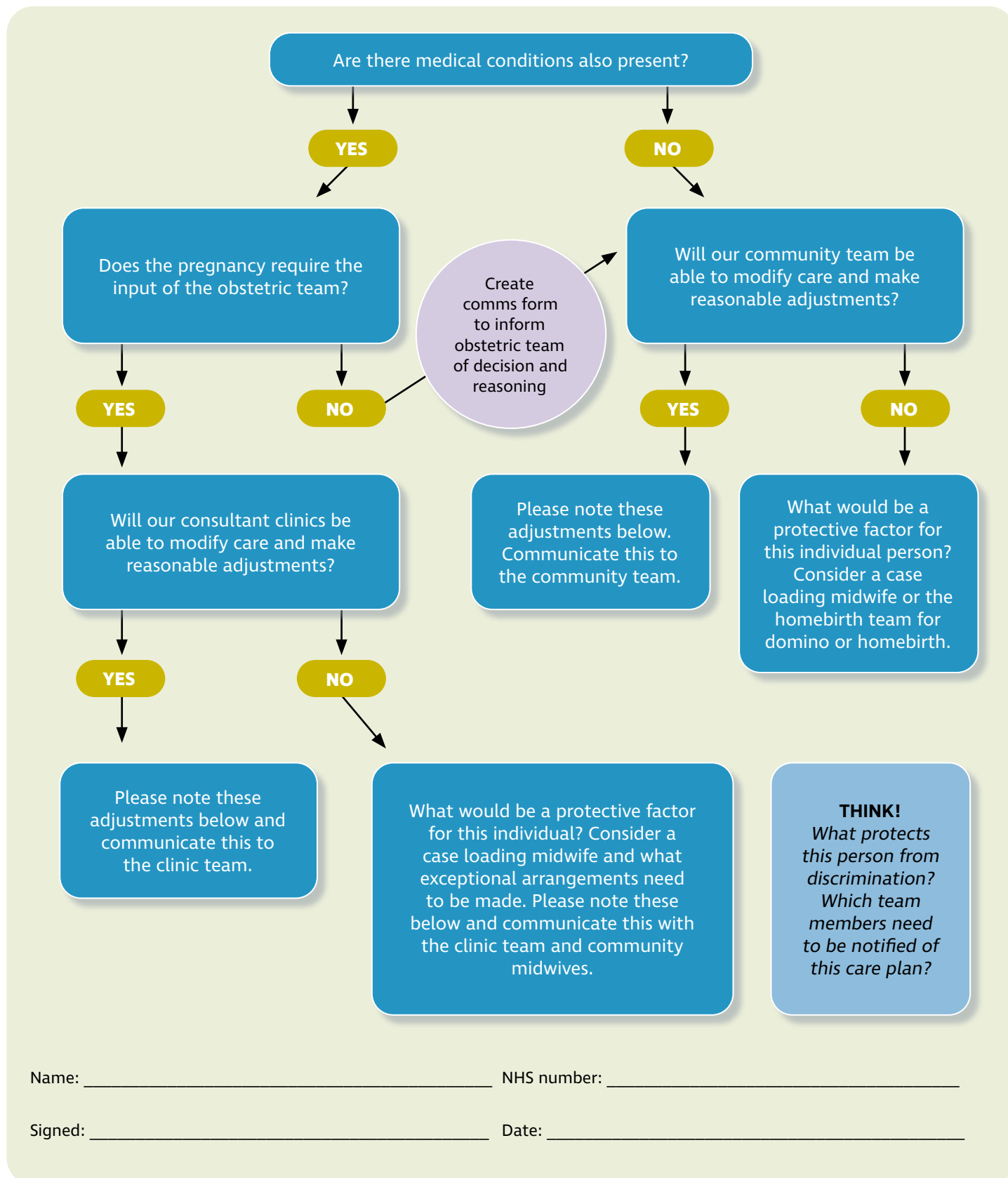
Name: _____ NHS number: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

FLOW CHART FOR CARE PLANNING: Maternity care support for D/deaf women and people

This is a guide to help your midwife decide who might need to be involved in your care and how we make that as accessible for you as possible.

Reasonable adjustments are modifications that will overcome challenges caused by disability, e.g. physical aids, changes to policy, assistance, translators, extra time etc.



RESOURCES FOR CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION: Maternity care support for D/deaf women and people

1. Decide with the woman what is the most suitable way for her to contact the maternity team. If this is through a phone service e.g. Relay UK, this needs to be communicated to the labour ward, antenatal clinic, day assessment unit, postnatal ward and the community midwives. Instructions on using the phone service need to be located near the triage phone. Further ideas are available from Action On Hearing Loss.

2. Box to be kept on labour ward and notice to go in handover notes and on notice board to explain what it contains and why.

Contents:

- Instructions and floor plan of room set up with bed near windows
 - this enables faces of the staff to be lit well to aid lipreading
- Phone number for BSL interpreter and audiology department
- Poster to go on door of room and above bed: description of specific needs and how to communicate effectively
 - what to do and what not to do
- D/deaf awareness poster and description of the woman's main needs for lead carer on that day
- Flash cards of general hospital information – food, drink, facilities etc.
- Finger spelling poster
- Batteries for hearing aids
- Batteries for cochlear implants
- Extra desk lamps for lighting
- Extension cables for lamps.

3. D/deaf awareness posters in all staff offices and communal areas to improve general awareness of communication techniques. Remind staff that they need to make extra considerations. e.g. if cannulas are being sited, this may interfere with women's ability to sign, or if the lights are low, she may struggle to lip read.