

# Information letter

## Giving birth in the period August and September 2022



Dear client and partner.

During your pregnancy you may choose in which hospital you would like to deliver. In the months August and September there are less beds available for deliveries due to a shortage of specialized personnel and an increase in pregnancies in this period. Due to these problems there is a chance that the care for you and your baby may take place in another hospital or you may have to be transferred to a hospital out of your region.

In the region, Zuidwest –Nederland midwives, doctors, hospitals and kraamnurses are all working extremely hard to ensure that you are given the best care in your pregnancy and during your delivery. As a team we ensure the best care for you and your baby. In the situation of a medical emergency there is an agreement that there will always be a bed available for you.

In this letter you can read more information about what you can expect so that you and your partner can prepare for your delivery. We hope that by giving you this information it will reduce the disappointment if your delivery goes differently than you had expected.

## Frequently asked questions and answers

### 1 The hospital of my choice is full, What now?

If you have chosen to deliver (poliklinisch) in a hospital we will try and find a bed in the hospital of your choice when the delivery has started. If this is not possible, we will look for a bed in the nearest hospital to you in our region. Often we can find a bed for you, but when there are many deliveries at the same time there is a chance that you may choose with your midwife to deliver at home. A home birth will only take place if your midwife and you find it safe to do so. Deliveries at home are just as safe as delivering in a hospital and midwives in Holland are highly educated to ensure a safe home delivery.

### 2 I really don't want to deliver at home, is there always a bed available in a hospital?

When you really don't want to deliver at home we will look for a bed for you in a hospital where you can deliver.

*See Number 10, which hospitals are in the region? And in which hospital can I end up in if there is no bed in the region?*

### 3 If I unexpectedly need to deliver at home, what do I have to arrange?

If you are going to deliver at home unexpectedly the midwife and kraamnurse will arrange everything for you to ensure a fine and safe home delivery. You therefore do not need to make any arrangements beforehand.

Read more



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### **4** Is there the possibility that I may have to change from hospitals during my delivery?

Yes, this is a small possibility. This only occurs when the medical care that you need at that moment isn't available in the hospital you are in. The hospital will arrange everything for you to ensure you are transferred safely.

### **5** What happens if my midwife can't be by my delivery?

Midwives often fill in for each other during busy periods, so it could well be that you have a different midwife by your delivery. Usually this is another midwife in the same practice, very rarely however it may be necessary for a midwife from another practice to step in and be with you during your delivery. Each midwife has access to your details and is therefore aware of your personal situation.

### **6** I have a planned medical delivery, will this always happen as planned?

Some deliveries are planned, for example a caesarian section or an induction of labour. If your delivery is planned, it can happen that the date needs to be changed. All staff do their best to ensure this doesn't happen but if it is necessary to change your date you will be informed by the hospital as soon as possible.

### **7** Is there also a bed available in the hospital where I deliver for my baby if he or she is sick?

It does occur sometimes after a delivery that a baby needs to be admitted to the neonatal ward. If this is the case and the hospital where you have just delivered does not have an available bed, your baby will be transferred by ambulance to another hospital. So there always will be a bed available for you and your baby when he or she is sick.

### **8** Can I still have my appointments in the clinic in my hospital of choice?

Yes, the pregnancy clinics are always open during you pregnancy and after delivery for your appointments.

### **9** Can I always get Kraamzorg\* after my delivery?

When you deliver at home the midwife arranges that there is a kraamnurse who comes to assist you. If it is busy by the organization where you have signed on for, it could well be that a kraamnurse from another organization fills in for their colleague, this could be for the delivery but also for your care postpartum.

**Read more**



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When you have signed on for kraamzorg, and are discharged from hospital during the day the kraamnurse come to help you get things up and running. If you are discharged in the evening or in the night they will assess the situation to see if you need extra help or not. Either way you will always get important information for your first hours at home before the kraamnurse comes the following day.

There is however a possibility that if there are many deliveries in a certain period that your kraamnurse will need to work less hours with you to ensure that everyone is offered care. If this is so, they will always assess your situation, ensuring you have the right amount of care that you need at that time.

*\*Kraamzorg is a service in the Netherlands where postnatal care is provided to a new mother and her baby in the initial eight to 10 days immediately after birth. This support comes in the form of a qualified maternity nurse or health care professional, kraamverzorgster, who comes to the home in order to provide care and instruction for the newborn. Kraamzorg care is included in standard health insurance packages in the Netherlands; though, depending on specific policy, a small contribution for each hour of care is expected.*

## 10 Which are the hospitals in the region? And which hospital can I find myself in outside of the region?

Region Zuid-West Nederland:

- Erasmus MC – Rotterdam, naast Erasmus MC bevindt zich Geboortecentrum Sophia
- Franciscus Gasthuis & Vlietland – Rotterdam
- Maastad ziekenhuis – Rotterdam
- Ikazia ziekenhuis – Rotterdam
- IJsselland ziekenhuis – Capelle a/d IJssel
- Van Weel-Bethesda ziekenhuis – Dirksland
- Admiraal de Ruyter ziekenhuis – Goes
- Albert Schweitzer ziekenhuis – Dordrecht
- Beatrix ziekenhuis – Gorinchem
- ZorgSaam ziekenhuis - Terneuzen

When there are no places available in the hospital of your choice we will always endeavor to find a place as near as possible to you. We are unable to say in advance which hospital it could be. Your midwife will discuss this with you. If we are unable to find a hospital in the above list then we will look for a place out of the region:

- Reinier de Graaf Gasthuis – Delft
- Amphia ziekenhuis – Breda
- Bravis ziekenhuis – Bergen op Zoom
- Groene Hart Ziekenhuis - Gouda

## Finally,

We understand that a delivery is a beautiful, exciting happening and can also make you nervous. And if after reading this letter you have further concerns please do not hesitate to contact your midwife or gynaecologist.

On behalf of, all the midwives, Kraamzorg organisations, gynaecologists and hospitals in the region of Zuidwest-Nederland.



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