



The  
**ROTUNDA HOSPITAL**  
**MATERNITY**  
information guide  
**2005**

A Centre of Excellence in Maternity Care for over 250 Years



Parnell Street • Dublin 1

Telephone: (01) 873 0700

Fax: (01) 872 6523

Website: [www.rotunda.ie](http://www.rotunda.ie)

### Visiting Hours

Mondays to Fridays:

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays:

2.00pm - 3.00pm

6.30pm - 8.30pm

### Adult Outpatient Appointments

9.00am - 4.00pm

Tel: (01) 873 0632 or (01) 873 0596

### Baby Outpatient Appointments

9.00am - 4.00pm

Tel: (01) 817 1728

### Private Clinic Appointments

Tel: (01) 874 2115 or (01) 874 0733

### Semi-Private Clinic Appointments

Tel: (01) 874 0992 or (01) 817 1778

# I N T R O D U C T I O N

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**Pauline Treanor**  
*Director of Midwifery/Nursing*



**Dr Michael Geary**  
*Master*



**Fintan Fagan**  
*General Manager/Secretary*

## *Welcome to the Rotunda Hospital*

The Rotunda Hospital was founded in 1745 by Bartholomew Mosse, a Surgeon and man-midwife who was appalled at the conditions that expectant mothers of the time had to go through. In an attempt to ease their plight, Mosse founded a Lying-in hospital, where mothers and their infants would receive the best available medical care, food and shelter. The Hospital was originally located in Georges Lane but moved to its present location at the top of O Connell Street in 1757.

The majority of the Rotunda's patients come from north Dublin City and County but the Hospital also serves other areas and acts as a referral unit for expectant mothers from all over the country. Since it opened, over 300,000 babies have been born here. The Rotunda Hospital not only serves as a Maternity Hospital; it is an important training school for both doctors and midwives. Many of those who have been trained at the Rotunda work in hospitals throughout the world.

The purpose of this brochure is to provide you with details of the services, which are at your disposal while attending the Rotunda. It is the Hospital's policy to provide you with the highest standard of service while in our care. We welcome suggestions and advice from our patients and our visitors on how we can improve our services.

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**The Rotunda Hospital has received the Triple Hygiene Award from Excellence Ireland for its Catering Department. This Award recognises the highest possible standards obtained in hygiene and continuous improvement of service. All patients receive a daily menu which has a wide selection of options including any special dietary requirements.**

## *Message from the Master*



Thank you for choosing to come here as a patient. We have been providing maternity services to Irish women for hundreds of years and are constantly trying to adapt new ideas and techniques to improve the outcome for both women and their babies. In any large hospital you will come into contact with many staff from different disciplines and backgrounds. Every member of the hospital staff is aware of the emphasis we place on trying to make your stay in the hospital not only a healthy one, but also a happy and productive one.

There are many services provided within the hospital, the most obvious being obstetrical, gynaecological and paediatrics. Irrespective of whichever services you are dealing with we hope you will leave feeling that you have been helped and facilitated in a caring manner. Irish childbirth services are amongst the finest in the world and according to the World Health Organisation there is no safer country in which to have a baby. We hope to combine the necessity of safety with the minimum of inconvenience and disruption throughout your stay. Your baby will be looked after by midwives and doctors with results that are not only outstanding by Irish standards but also by international standards.

Each year approximately 7,000 women leave the Rotunda happy in the knowledge that their baby has been given the best possible start in life. It is our privilege to be associated with families' happiest moments and this is what we look forward to doing with you in the coming months.

By its nature, childbirth occasionally has its disappointments for parents. We understand and sympathise with parents in these circumstances and hope that we can help them to deal with the disappointment.

In addition to care of the pregnant woman and her child the Rotunda also offers a comprehensive gynaecology service to women. General gynaecology has been a feature of the hospital service for many years and more recently special services have been added. These include a world renowned infertility service, menopause clinic, Colposcopy clinic, and pregnancy loss clinic. We have recently introduced an Early Pregnancy Unit which we believe will enhance the care of women with early pregnancy problems. In tandem with this, we have recently set up a dedicated Miscarriage Clinic for follow-up care and counselling when early pregnancy failure unfortunately occurs. Patients admitted for gynaecological surgery have access to two of the most modern theatres in the country and in this environment the anaesthetic and surgical staff can look after the patient in complete safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to come to the Rotunda and to assure you that we aim to provide the best care possible for you and your baby/babies.

**Dr Michael Geary**  
Master

## PUBLIC CLINICS

### Appointments/Referral

Maternity patients do not require a referral letter but it is essential to make an appointment as early as possible for your booking visit. Call (01) 873 0632 or (01) 873 0596.

### Access

Through the Public Outpatients Department entrance on Parnell Street West.

Your first visit appointment will normally take about two hours to complete. Follow-up appointments should be made at the Reception Desk prior to departure. Usually you will be required to attend the Antenatal clinic on six to eight occasions prior to your delivery. An appointment is required on each occasion.

*If you cannot make an appointment, please call to rearrange another appointment.*

### Services

Ultrasound examination is normally done on your first visit so it is important to attend with a full bladder. Blood and urine samples together with blood pressure and weightchecks. A general medical examination.

### The Rotunda Hospital offers three options of care:

you can attend the Rotunda Hospital for all your antenatal care  
you can opt for combined antenatal care which is shared between the Rotunda and your General Practitioner

you can choose to attend one of our outlying clinics located in Coolock, Finglas and Ballymun.

### Rotunda Reception Desk



## PRIVATE/SEMI-PRIVATE CLINICS

### ACCESS

Access is via Reception at the main entrance of the Hospital on Parnell Street West.

### OBSTETRIC REFERRALS

Once the pregnancy is confirmed the GP can refer you to a consultant of your choice. Your initial visit to the clinic occurs between 10 and 14 weeks of pregnancy.

### GYNAECOLOGICAL REFERRALS

These must occur via GP or family planning clinic.

### FEES

#### Private Fees

Obstetrical care Booking deposit or €500.

Gynaecological care Fees vary for each consultant.

**Semi-Private Fees** Booking deposit of €370 is payable at your first visit. Other charges are covered by BUPA or VHI.

### APPOINTMENTS

Private patients: 01- 874 2115

Semi-private patients: 01- 817 1778  
Paediatrics: 01- 817 1782

### PRIVATE CLINICS

#### Consultants

Dr Mike Geary (Master), Dr Michael Darling, Dr Peter McKenna, Dr Barry Gaughan, Dr Mary Holohan, Dr Paul Byrne, Dr Carole Barry Kinsella, Dr Ronan Gleeson, Dr Sam Coulter Smith, Dr David Corcoran, Dr Geraldine Connolly, Prof. Fergal Malone

Services available:

*Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics  
Paediatric six-week check  
Full gynaecological services  
Ultrasound and phlebotomy service*

#### Clinic Times

**Monday to Friday:**  
8.30am 12.30pm and  
1.30pm 4.30pm.

Each consultant has designated sessions in the clinic.

#### Paediatric Referrals

This facility is available to women who delivered at the Rotunda Hospital under the private care of an obstetrician. For appointments, please call (01) 817 1782.

### SEMI-PRIVATE CLINIC

Services available:

*Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics  
Ultrasound scanning and  
phlebotomy service  
An ultrasound scan will be performed on your first visit.*

#### Clinic Times

##### Mornings

*Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday*

##### Afternoons

*Monday Tuesday Thursday*

Referral from your GP is necessary. An ultrasound will be performed on your first visit.

The Rotunda Hospital provides specialised services and counselling through a wide range of Outpatient Services which includes the following:

## Early Pregnancy Unit

The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) was established in July 2002. The primary aim of this unit is to improve the quality of care for women with bleeding or pain in early pregnancy (6 to 14 weeks' gestation).

Miscarriage is the most common complication of pregnancy and affects 15 to 20 per cent of recognised pregnancies. The EPU provides a means by which rapid reassurance can be obtained without the need for hospital admission. The clinic is run on a daily basis (Monday to Friday) and referrals are made directly by certain GPs or via the Emergency Department. The dedicated staff provide counselling and support for those who experience a pregnancy loss. They will also organise further management where appropriate.

Patients are free to have contact with the clinic for any questions that may arise and the same staff members relay all test results to the patients, thereby providing continuity of care.

The ultrasound scan is the major tool of diagnosis. A transabdominal scan is initially performed, so patients are asked to have a full bladder. However, it may be necessary to proceed to a transvaginal scan. This type of scanning is well tolerated, acceptable to most women and causes no harm to the pregnancy itself.

Permission to perform a transvaginal scan is always sought first. A pregnancy will be assessed as an ongoing (viable) pregnancy, a miscarriage, or rarely, an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside of the uterus eg. in the tube or ovary). If the pregnancy is viable, a booking clinic appointment can be made.

Counselling is offered for miscarriages and the management is then discussed. Many women choose conservative management and

allow nature to take its course. Otherwise an operation can be organised. This is called an ERPC (evacuation of retained products of conception). If an ectopic is suspected, blood tests for the pregnancy hormone level may need to be performed. This might also be required if the ultrasound scan is inconclusive that is, the pregnancy may be too early to assess. As well as blood tests, follow-up scans can also be booked.

The establishment of the EPU has improved the quality of service offered to women with early pregnancy problems. The priorities of the clinic include prompt diagnosis and management of these patients, as well as the provision of counselling and support. Tailoring services to meet the needs of this specific group of patients will hopefully also reduce some of the anxiety provoked by the experience of pain and bleeding in early pregnancy.



## Ultrasound Department

Ultrasound is a diagnostic tool that is used to investigate the environment of the womb by using high frequency sound waves.

The estimated date of delivery can be estimated from the measurements taken of the baby. The position of the placenta can also be assessed.

Unsuspected problems related to the womb and baby can be

diagnosed. However, not all problems will be detected.

Bio-physical assessment of foetal breathing, movement, and tone & liquor volume may be indicated if the baby is small for dates.



## Foetal Assessment Unit

The Foetal Assessment Unit provides a service that monitors the well being and development of your baby. Not all women need to attend this unit during their pregnancy. This foetal monitoring may be carried out in two ways:

Foetal assessment, which is done by ultrasound scan.

Cardiotocograph (tracing), which is the monitoring of the baby's heart beat, over a period of time.

## Prenatal Daycare (DCU)

If during pregnancy your blood pressure rises or some other health problems develop both you and your baby may need extra assessment in our Day Care Unit.

The midwife will carry out an abdominal examination, take blood pressure, urine and blood tests, and may carry out foetal monitoring, and/or a scan if required.

The Midwife and the Doctor will assess the results and decide with you what is best for both you and your baby.

## Menopause Clinic

Some women may have problems associated with the menopause. The Rotunda Hospital now offers a service to help with these problems and provide treatment where necessary. The Hospital also has a bone scanner, which can detect bone density and warn of likelihood of osteoporosis.

A referral letter from your General Practitioner to attend this clinic is essential.

For information or booking telephone (01) 873 0632/ 0596 (Public patients) or (01) 874 2115 (Private patients).

## Human Assisted Reproduction Ireland (HARI)

Our IVF unit is the busiest in the country. It enjoys an international reputation and is under the directorship of Dr Michael Darling. The aim of this unit is to provide a full complement of assisted reproductive techniques for infertile couples. These end-of-line therapies are only offered to patients after they have been fully investi-

gated and where appropriate, undergone other treatment options.

## Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU)

This unit provides medical help in obtaining forensic samples in cases of sexual crime. The specialists in this area work closely with the Gardai and the Rape Crisis Centre in providing help in their investigations.

## Pharmacy

The Pharmacy is located on the ground floor of the main Hospital and provides pharmaceutical care to in-patients. If you have a prescription to be filled prior to discharge you may use the Pharmacy services.

## Family Planning

The Rotunda Hospital has a family planning clinic, which offers both natural and artificial methods. It is held every Thursday morning from 10am - 11.30am and offers a comprehensive service including counselling on the different methods, preconceptual care, smear testing, breast examination and sexual health care.

No appointment is necessary and a consultation fee applies. The telephone number is (01) 817 1778. Natural family planning counselling is available on an individual basis and requires an appointment. The telephone number is (01) 817 1787 and fees apply



## Physiotherapy

Our department provides a wide range of services including:

- antenatal education
- postnatal education
- pre- & post-operative physiotherapy to all major gynaecological surgery
- paediatric physiotherapy
- chest physiotherapy
- physiotherapy for pregnancy related disorders
- treatment for urinary and faecal incontinence

## MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT (MSW)

The Medical Social Work team offers a confidential support and counselling service to all patients and their families receiving care as outpatients or inpatients at the Rotunda Hospital.

The Social Workers provide counselling on matters of concern to patients:-

- Relationship issues*
- Crisis or unplanned pregnancy*
- Coping with change / stress*
- Postnatal depression*

- Bereavement - miscarriage/ stillbirth*
- Fostering / adoption*

The department also provides information on a wide range of subjects including:

- Benefits and entitlements*
- Health Board services*
- Community and Voluntary services*
- Accessing legal advice*

A Medical Social Worker is attached to each obstetric team

and the main office is located beside Outpatients Department on the ground floor. You are very welcome to call in when you are attending your antenatal visit or ring for an appointment at Tel: (01) 817 1722.

## PARENT EDUCATION

### **Preparation for Parenthood**

The Preparation for Parenthood classes are run jointly by the Parentcraft and Physiotherapy Departments. The Parentcraft Teacher & the Physiotherapist are available to help expectant couples with any queries or problems they may have. Classes may be booked by telephoning the Hospital on (01) 817 1787 Monday to Friday 9am 4pm. As classes are very popular, early booking is advisable.



### **Parentcraft Classes**

These comprise of a series of informal talks, counselling, films and demonstrations with the guidance of the Parentcraft Teacher. These sessions are ideal for answering any queries that you or your partner may wish to ask. Subjects covered include:

#### **Pregnancy**

*Care and health in pregnancy*  
*Tour of the delivery suite*  
*Signs of labour and admission to hospital*  
*Complete care during stages of labour, including pain relief*

#### **Babycare**

*All aspects of feeding & weaning*  
*Bathing, layette, equipment & safety, immunisation*

### **Adjusting to Parenthood**

*Emotional/psychological aspects*  
*Going home with a new baby*  
*Family planning, counselling*  
*Return to employment/childcare options*

### **Preparation for Parenthood Teenage Parent Preparation**

All pregnant teenagers up to and including age 18 attending the Rotunda Hospital are invited to attend special Parentcraft classes. These education sessions are adapted to suit the needs of Teen Parents.

At your first antenatal visit please obtain a suitable date to commence your classes.

### **Special Classes**

Special classes are available for couples who may require individual attention, e.g. hard of hearing, language difficulties, sight impairment and adoptive parents.

### **Physiotherapy Classes**

These classes aim to:  
 Promote a sense of well being

in pregnancy  
 Prevent the minor ailments of pregnancy  
 Prepare for labour both physically and mentally  
 Prepare for parenthood

The classes are of a practical nature and partners are very welcome to attend. The first class is held in early pregnancy and the course continues when you are around seven months pregnant. Some of the topics covered include:

Exercise in pregnancy  
 Posture and prevention of back pain  
 Prevention of circulatory disorders  
 Exercises for bladder and bowel control  
 Coping skill for labour  
 Relaxation techniques  
 Exercises for after the birth of baby  
 Baby massage  
 Baby handling and position to encourage good patterns of development



Our approach to care is holistic and woman-centred. We aim to provide care in partnership with you.

### Arrival

On arrival at the hospital you will be assessed by the midwife in the emergency/assessment area, located beside the reception. The midwife will determine if your labour has established and discuss choices relating to your management plan.

### Choices

If labour is not established, you have the option to go home. Alternatively you may be transferred to the antenatal ward to await onset of labour. If labour has established, you will be transferred to the delivery suite.

### Delivery Suite

The delivery suite has nine individual rooms. These rooms are designed to provide an environment that is relaxing, personal and as non-intrusive as possible. Your birthing partner may stay with you throughout labour and birth. A midwife is assigned to you on your arrival. She/he will provide holistic care and support you in every way. They will discuss your labour and birthing plans and any specific wishes you have. They will endeavour to meet your individual needs in making your birth experience a pleasant and fulfilling one.

### Early Labour

You will be encouraged to mobilise during the early stages of your labour and various methods of pain relief will be discussed

with you if/when you require it. An anaesthetist is available at all times if an epidural is your chosen method of analgesia.

### Induction of Labour

If you have a scheduled appointment for induction of labour, you will be admitted to the delivery suite annexe. You will be assigned a midwife and student; and reviewed by the medical team.



### After Birth

Once your baby has been delivered, he/she will remain with you at all times. The baby will be examined by the midwife, weighed and then offered vitamin K following the birth. An identification band will be placed on your baby's left wrist and right leg with your name, date of birth, hospital number and sex. This information will be checked with you prior to application. For security reasons a Baby Tagging System is in operation in the Rotunda Hospital. The tag is attached to baby's ankle by a member of the Delivery Suite staff and is only removed on discharge from the hospital. Transfer to the postnatal ward usually occurs within two hours of delivery.

**VISITING IS VERY RESTRICTED IN THE DELIVERY SUITE**

### MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are **NOT** to be used in the Delivery Suite as they are known to interfere with medical equipment.

### EMERGENCY CAESAREAN SECTION

In the event that your baby is delivered via an emergency Caesarean Section, this procedure will occur in either the operating theatre located on the Delivery Suite or in the main hospital operating theatre. The midwife assigned to you will accompany you throughout the procedure. Your partner may remain with you providing there is agreement from the medical and midwifery staff that it is appropriate to the emergency in hand. In the event that the staff deem the emergency such that it is inappropriate for your partner to be in attendance this will be explained to you and he/she may be asked to remain in your Delivery Suite room. All efforts will be made to keep you informed at all times.



## General

The arrival of a new baby is an exciting time for all family members. As this is a very demanding time for mothers, we encourage you to make time for yourself and your baby. We hope you will leave the Hospital feeling rested, comfortable and confident. In this context you may consider asking some of your friends to visit you at home rather than during your hospital stay

## Baby

During your stay with us your baby may have some or all of the following:

*Daily check by the midwife to confirm the well being of your baby*

*Check by a Doctor from the paediatric team prior to discharge*

*Hip check by a Doctor from the orthopaedic team*

*Vaccination against TB (BCG)*

*Heel prick test for metabolic disorders*

It is important that you are aware of these procedures, understand the reasons for them and know that they have been completed during your baby's hospital stay.

For more information please ask the Midwifery Staff at ward level.

## Postnatal Physiotherapy

The physiotherapist will see all mums after delivery when

you will be shown exercises for good circulation, to promote good bladder and bowel control, for back care and tummy strengthening exercises. Advice will be given re posture, especially when handling baby and advice will also be given about return to normal exercise.



## Discharge from Hospital & Follow-up

After a normal delivery, usually you can expect to return home within three days. To facilitate new admissions, beds must be vacated by 12 noon on the day of discharge. You should arrange for a relative to collect you, as we do not discharge patients unless an adult accompanies them. Please ensure that you have a car seat, suitable for a

new baby, if you plan to travel home by car. It will be ascertained on discharge if you or your baby are to attend the Hospital or General Practitioner for the six-week check. If the appointment(s) are for the Hospital, they will be made prior to discharge.

## Birth Registration

The Registration Clerk will visit you shortly after the birth of your baby to complete a Notification of Birth form for baby's birth registration.

*You can collect the Birth Certificate after two weeks at General Registrar, Lucia House, 10/12 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2. Photographic identification is necessary. A birth certificate is available by post. Please address envelope to Joyce House, 8/11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2.*

If you have any questions or concerns please discuss them with the Registration Clerk during her visit.



Registration Clerk

This department offers a broad range of services for patients presenting with gynaecological problems. Gynaecological Outpatient Clinics are held in the main Outpatient Department of the hospital. These include:

*General Gynaecological Clinic*

*Infertility Clinic*

*Hysteroscopy Clinic*

*Pregnancy Loss Clinic*

*Early Pregnancy Unit*

*Miscarriage Clinic*

*Smear Clinic*

*Menopause Clinic*

*Colposcopy Clinic*



*Gynaecological Theatre*

The Gynaecological Department caters for inpatients for major surgery and day-case patients for minor surgical procedures. Patients are referred from the various Gynaecological clinics within the hospital for these planned procedures. Sadly, some pregnancies are looked after in a special ward in the department where they will receive the support and counselling necessary.

## **OUTPATIENTS**

The Gynaecology Department provides a range of Out-patient clinics. Patients must have a referral letter from a General Practitioner.

For information or appointment, tel: (01) 873 0632 / 0596 Monday to Friday 8am 4pm.

## **INPATIENTS**

The Rotunda Hospital has a Gynaecology unit, which caters for inpatients and day patients. All patients must be referred from either Outpatients, Private or Semi-private Clinics. The Physiotherapist visits each patient undergoing major surgery pre and post-operatively.



*Rotunda Pharmacy*



*Midwife & patient*

# NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

The Neonatal Unit provides Intensive and Specialised Care for all ill newborn infants. While most babies are in good health at birth, just over 10 per cent require admission to the Neonatal Unit for observation, treatment and ongoing care. This includes babies born prematurely (before 37 weeks), those with congenital abnormalities and any baby who has problems identified immediately after birth or who becomes ill subsequently.

In recent years, neonatology has seen rapid advances in terms of the research, knowledge, technology and expertise needed to care for increasing numbers of small, sick, newborn babies. Infants as immature as 24 weeks gestation may survive with skilled care and treatment.



*Parents can check on baby's progress*

Specially trained neonatal nurses, paediatric registrars and consultants will provide the best possible care for your baby. The philosophy of the unit sees parents and their baby as central



*Rotunda Hospital Neonatal Unit*

to the activity of the unit. The staff will always be happy to answer your questions and aim to keep you fully informed of your baby's progress. Your well being and involvement matters to us and we try to support you during what is a very traumatic period.



Feelings of anxiety, fear and guilt can be very strong and perfectly normal when your baby is ill. However, over time you will become more positive and feel ready to participate in your baby's care. Talking to and touching your baby will help you to get to know him/her and develop your relationship. You will also be given a picture of your baby following admission and encouraged to visit frequently.

*The Neonatal Wing can accommodate five parents staying overnight with their babies*

*Neonatal Unit Nurse*





Breastfeeding is the unequalled way of providing ideal food for healthy growth and development of infants and has a unique biological and emotional influence on the health of both mother and child. The Hospital has a Certificate of Commitment in the Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiative and is progressing to achieve full membership by continuing to protect, promote and support breastfeeding and offer the following services:

## **ANTENATAL SUPPORT**

*Breastfeeding Classes  
Breastfeeding information on an individual basis*

**CMS IBCLC**  
Maura Lavery  
**CMS IBCLC**  
Aisling Wilson

## **POSTNATAL SUPPORT**

### ***In hospital***

*Breastfeeding groups at ward level  
Individual assistance and support with early breastfeeding problems*

***For any Breastfeeding Advice or to contact the Lactation Midwives:***

Tel: (01) 873 0700 (ext. 1766)  
or  
Bleep 471

### ***Following discharge***

*A drop-in service is available for mums with breastfeeding problems.  
Phone counselling/advice  
Breastfeeding support group every Friday 11.45am-12.45pm.  
Link with community support groups*



*Breastfeeding is strongly encouraged in the Rotunda Hospital*

## *Freedom of Information*

Freedom of Information and Open Access:

Freedom of Information affords individuals a number of rights:

- \* Access personal information
- \* Have reasons for decisions explained
- \* Access non-personal information created after 21 October 1999.

In some cases information may be withheld in accordance with the Act.

Requests take four weeks to process.

Open Access Requests are a process whereby patients can seek to have access to their own personal records in accordance with the hospital's open access policy.

Information leaflets and request forms are available from the hospital. Alternatively email: [foi@rotunda.ie](mailto:foi@rotunda.ie) or tel: (01) 817 1751.

## *Information Leaflets*

Available from any patient/visitor contact areas within the hospital:

Adult Outpatients Department  
Paediatric Outpatients Department  
Visiting Patients in The Rotunda Hospital  
Extract from Information Guide (Maternity Patients)  
Accessing Information under the Freedom of Information Act 1997

## *Suggestions and Complaints*

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of care or service while at the Rotunda Hospital, please bring the matter to the

attention of the Sister in charge of the Ward/ Department at the time.

In the event that this does not fully resolve the problem, you may in accordance with the Patient's Charter, refer the matter to our Complaints Officer.

## *Patient's Food Consumption*

In the interest of health and safety, patients can only consume food that is prepared in the hospital kitchen.

It is not permitted to deliver food from external quarters, including private homes, restaurants and takeaways. Low risk foods, such as chocolates, crisps, sweets and biscuits are permitted.

Any patients with specific dietary requirements should make this known to Hospital Catering Management or Midwifery Staff. All efforts will be made to facilitate these requirements.

*This policy/food regulations adheres to: E.C. (Official Control of Foodstuffs) Regulations 1998; E.C. (Hygiene of Foodstuffs) Regulation 200; and Food Regulations 1950/1989.*



## *Hospital Shop*

Located in the main reception area. Opening hours:

**Weekdays** 9am - 8:30pm

**Sat/Sun/Bank Holidays**

5pm-8:30pm

A mobile shop service is available to the ward areas.

## *Telephone*

Public telephones (coin & card) are located throughout the Hospital.

## *Mobile Phones*

You are asked **NOT** to use mobile phones in the hospital building as it can interfere with vital medical equipment.

## *Television*

Televisions are available in most wards.

## *Website*

For more information on the hospital you can now access our website at [www.rotunda.ie](http://www.rotunda.ie).



## *Smoking*

The hospital building is a no smoking area. There is a designated area to the rear of the hospital for patients and staff only. Visitors are not allowed to smoke on the hospital site. Women are encouraged to consider not smoking during pregnancy or when in hospital. If they choose to smoke they are advised to inform staff when they are leaving the ward area.

## **Visiting Hours**

Partners have unrestricted visiting, but must hold a nominated visitor card. Other visiting is restricted to two visitors at a time. Visitors are encouraged not to stay for more than 20 minutes.

*Visiting hours are between the hours of 6pm-8pm.*

## **Alcohol**

The consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Hospital is prohibited.

## **Fire Safety**

Testing of the fire alarm system occurs every Monday at 9am. In the event of a fire or fire drill, an alarm will sound and staff will issue instructions.

## **Security**

Security is based in the main reception area of the Hospital and CCTV cameras are in operation. There is also a security presence throughout the hospital especially in the ward areas. Security is there for the safety of you, your baby, your visitors, staff and property.

## **Baby Tagging**

Baby tagging is now in operation in the Rotunda Hospital for the protection and security of your baby. Tags are only removed upon discharge by a member of the midwifery staff.

## **Car Parking**

Due to an acute shortage of space, the hospital authorities regret that they cannot provide car parking for visitors. Dublin City Council has provided parking

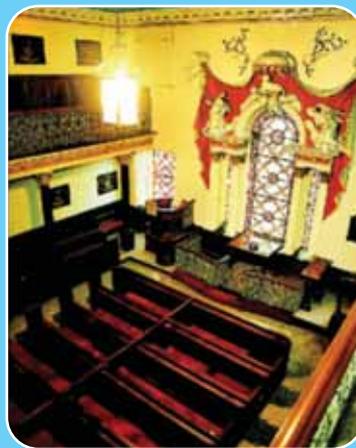
areas around the perimeters of the hospital. The Ambulance Bay located at the front Reception must be kept clear at all times. A mobile shop service is available to the ward areas.

## **Chapel/Chaplaincy**

The Chapel is located on the first floor and is available for private worship. The times of services on Sunday are as follows:

Roman Catholic: 9am  
Church of Ireland: 9.50am

The Rotunda Hospital has Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland chaplains in attendance. Chaplains from other denominations are available upon request.



## **Education and Research**

The Rotunda Hospital is a major teaching hospital associated with a number of education institutions including the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Trinity College Dublin. Students from these colleges gain experience in their fields through their association with the Rotunda Hospital. You may come into contact with some of these future doctors and midwives as they acquire clinical

experience under the supervision of fully qualified staff.

The Rotunda Hospital staff continuously expand their knowledge and skills through participation in ongoing continuing education programmes. A number of research projects are currently in progress in many areas.

You may be asked to participate in the education of future doctors and midwives and in research projects designed to further our knowledge about pregnancy, birth and other related matters.

Your involvement in such projects is vital in assisting us to discover new solutions to some of the problems experienced during pregnancy and birth.

## **Friends of the Rotunda**

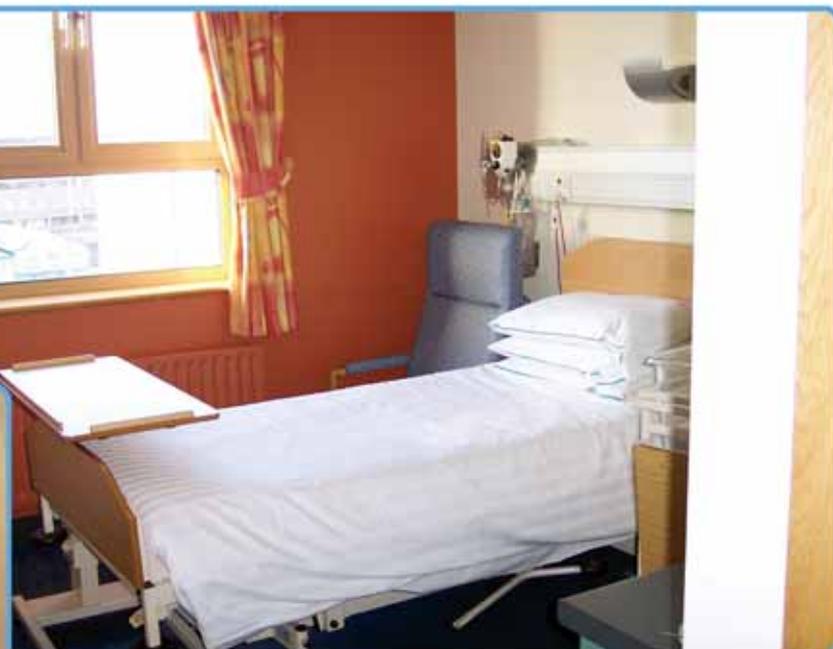
In 1971 the Friends of the Rotunda was established to provide financial assistance to the hospital to improve the comfort and efficiency of the services and to support research. In the coming years, the Rotunda Hospital will need a significant amount of money each year to enhance patient amenities and to support ongoing research projects. If you would like to support the Friends or find out more information about their work, please contact the Friends Office, tel: (01) 872 2377.

# ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

## *The Rotunda Hospital Accommodation Facilities for Maternity Patients*



*Accommodation in the "Lillie Suite" - the newly developed modern post-natal wing for private patients.*



The Rotunda Hospital "Lillie Suite" is a newly developed modern post-natal wing for private patients. There are 11 en-suite private rooms which are decorated to a very high standard. At present it is very rare that a private patient has to be accommodated in a public bed and if it does happen, every effort is made to reduce the length of the waiting time for a private room.

Private patients can choose either a private room or semi-private room. The "Lillie Suite" has 4 semi private rooms with 3 - 4 beds in each room. The semi-private rooms are decorated to a very high standard.

There are also 5 private rooms and one 5-bed semi-private room in the general pre-natal ward.

The Rotunda Hospital have recently decorated their public pre-natal and post-natal wards and further improvements are planned in 2005.

*Recently decorated public ward*

