

Baby Born Before Arrival (BBA) at Labour and Birthing Suite

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Function(s)	Clinical Service Delivery
Directorates	Women's Health
Department(s) affected	Maternity (and also AED)
Patients affected (if applicable)	All pregnant women
Staff members affected	All ADHB clinicians. Volunteers, Security
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Contents

1. [Purpose of policy](#)
2. [Policy statements](#)
3. [Definitions](#)
4. [Born before arrival at Labour and Birthing Suite \(L&B\) ACH](#)
5. [Imminent birth outside of Labour and Birthing Suite \(L&B\) ACH](#)
6. [Born before arrival equipment](#)
7. [Associated ADHB documents](#)
8. [Corrections and amendments](#)

1. Purpose of policy

This policy establishes the action to be taken when a baby is born before arrival to the Labour and Birthing (L&B) Suite at Auckland City Hospital.

It also establishes the action to be taken if a pregnant woman arrives within the hospital grounds e.g. main entrance, car park or adult emergency department (AED) and birth of the baby is imminent.

[Back to Contents](#)

2. Policy statements

It is a duty of care to provide emergency services to birthing women and their infants regardless of place of birth.

[Back to Contents](#)

3. Definitions

Born before arrival (BBA) - a baby is born before arrival to Labour and Birthing (L&B) Suite, either at home or en route where the placenta has not been birthed as yet.

Homebirth - where both the baby and placenta are born before arrival to hospital. Therefore, the only difference between homebirth and BBA is where the placenta is delivered.

[Back to Contents](#)

4. Born before arrival at Labour and Birthing Suite (L&B) ACH

Process to follow if arrives by ambulance:

- Ambulance staff members to transfer the mother and her baby directly to L&B suite, (9th floor, building 32)
- If the mother or her baby requires resuscitation they are to remain in AED and AED staff members are to phone the relevant emergency code:
 - mother - obstetric emergency
 - baby - neonatal code blue
- The Labour and Birthing clinical charge midwife is to allocate immediate midwifery assistance or attend if required in AED
- On admission to L&B suite the ward clerk must:
 - Admit the mother and her baby
 - Issue pre-allocated baby number BBA only
 - Or generate baby number as required for homebirth
 - Inform lead maternity carer (LMC) if required
 - Enter birth details into Healthware

[Back to Contents](#)

5. Imminent birth outside of labour and birthing suite ACH

This could be at the main entrance, in the car park or in AED.

The AED staff members, security or volunteers must:

- Contact immediately the Clinical Charge Midwife on 021 938 845 (alternatively L&B 24910 or 24913) and request midwifery assistance urgently for imminent birth, stating location
- Reassure the woman and her whānau that assistance has been called for and will be available immediately. Remain with the woman until assistance arrives

The L&B ward clerk must:

- Inform Clinical Charge Midwife immediately
- Inform Duty Manager
- Inform LMC if required

The Clinical Charge Midwife must:

- Allocate immediate midwifery assistance or attend
- Instruct health care assistant (HCA) to assist (screen and wheelchair to be found on level 4 if required)

The attending midwife must:

- Assess clinical and either transfer directly to L&B or assist with the birth and then transfer
- Instruct the HCA to call for further assistance if required

[Back to Contents](#)

6. Born before arrival equipment

Equipment kept next to emergency trolley

BBA set includes:

- Instruments
- Cord clamps
- Towels
- Incontinent sheets
- Ecbolics
- Gloves
- Neonatal wraps

[Back to Contents](#)

7. Associated ADHB documents

- [Admission - Labour & Birthing Suite](#)
- [Resuscitation of Adults](#)
- [Resuscitation at Delivery - Newborn](#)

[Back to Contents](#)

8. Corrections and amendments

The next scheduled review of this document is as per the document classification table (page 1). However, if the reader notices any errors or believes that the document should be reviewed **before** the scheduled date, they should contact the owner or the [Clinical Policy Advisor](#) without delay.

[Back to Contents](#)