

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_268_16

You asked:

1. Do you have an MLU (can you state where it is situated in relation to your maternity dept. please)
2. Should you have an MLU; have you seen an increase in births since the MLU's introduction and has your C Section rate dropped.

Our response:

1. Cwm Taf University Health Board has two Alongside Midwifery Led Units (AMU's – MLU's – located in a Maternity Unit that also provides Obstetric Led Care) - situated within the maternity departments of Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant.

In Prince Charles Hospital, Tair Afon Birth Centre is situated on the first floor on Ward 20, adjacent to the antenatal/postnatal Ward 21, separated by double doors – with the Obstetric Labour Ward located outside of this area, across a corridor on the same floor, through 5 sets of double doors in place for security of the newborn. In the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Tirion Birth Centre is located on the first floor, as a separate wing next to the Obstetric Labour Ward on the same floor, separated by double doors.

2. There has not been an increase in the total number of births at Cwm Taf (slight reduction in birth rate throughout Wales) since the introduction of the alongside midwifery led units, although women suitable for midwifery led care are admitted to the Birth Centre by default unless they choose otherwise and these rates have increased. Over the past 1 – 2 years we have experienced a reduction in the caesarean rate (reduced 2.5% from 2014 to 2015), but this has been as a result of number of work streams to increase normality and could not be seen solely as a result of the promotion and development of the AMU's – although obviously a key feature.