

## What if I decide I do not want the care recommended for me?

You and your care provider can make a plan that will best fit with your wishes.

Further information on declining recommended maternity care is available on the Queensland Health Informed Consent website [www.health.qld.gov.au/consent](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent) including resources for women who wish to decline recommended care.

## What can I do if I am unhappy about my maternity care?

Talk to your care provider or another care provider at your health service at any time. You can also make a complaint or contact the patient liaison representative at your health service.



## Information and support

- **Partnering with the woman who declines recommended maternity care** – guideline and resources for consumers. [www.health.qld.gov.au/consent](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent)
- **Queensland Clinical Guidelines consumer information** [www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg/consumers](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg/consumers)
- **13 HEALTH** (phone: 13 43 25 84) is a confidential phone service that provides non-urgent health advice. [www.qld.gov.au/health/contacts/advice/13health](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/contacts/advice/13health)
- **Pregnancy, Birth and Baby** [www.pregnancybirthbaby.org.au](http://www.pregnancybirthbaby.org.au)
  - **Helpline** (phone 1800 882 436) A maternal child health nurse will provide free personal advice, guidance and information about pregnancy, birth, being a parent and raising a child. If counselling support is needed, they will connect or refer you to a counselling service.
- **Raising Children Network** [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)
- **Lifeline** (phone: 13 11 14) Lifeline offers a 24 hour telephone crisis support service. [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Queensland Health welcomes your feedback on this brochure. Please email [PSQIS\\_Comms@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:PSQIS_Comms@health.qld.gov.au)



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# Recommended maternity care – it's your decision: information for women



This information sheet answers questions you may have about the maternity care that is recommended by your care provider, that is your doctor, midwife or another health practitioner. It is for general information only and should be discussed with your care provider.

## What is recommended care?

Your care provider checks your and your baby's well-being and will recommend tests and procedures as part of that. Some are recommended for all pregnant women, and others may be recommended to you because of your health, your baby's health or your family history.

## What if I am not sure about the care recommended for me?

Ask questions at any time. The BRAND prompt can remind you to ask about:

**Benefits:** What are the benefits of the recommended test or procedure?

**Risks:** What are the risks of the recommended test or procedure?

**Alternatives:** What other options are there to the recommended test or procedure?

**Now or Nothing:** Does this decision need to be made now? What if I decide not to have the test or procedure?

**Decision:** The final decision is always yours.

## Can my care provider refuse to care for me if I decline care?

You always have the right to decline recommended maternity care and still have access to healthcare.

If you ask for a procedure, your care provider may decline to do it if they believe it will do more harm than good.

If your health service is unable to provide the care that you need, your care provider will explain your options and support you to get the care you need. Your care may need to be provided at another health service.

**If you seek maternity care at a Queensland public hospital, you will never be turned away from receiving care.**

## What if my care provider thinks I am putting myself and/or my baby at risk of harm if I decline care?

Your care provider will explain what is known and unknown about the chances that you or your baby could be harmed. They cannot make you consent to recommended care.

You are responsible for making decisions about your maternity care, and for the consequences of those decisions. Regardless of the outcome, your care provider will continue to treat you with honesty and compassion.

A Child Protection Notification cannot be made just because you decline recommended maternity care.

