

PARENT INFANT UNIT- REFERRAL INFORMATION

Admission Criteria

Inpatient admissions are open to pregnant women in their 3rd trimester of pregnancy and primary caregivers of infants up to the age of 12months (and not walking) in the following circumstances:

- There is an existing diagnosis, or risk, of a serious psychiatric illness with risk issues which may include the involvement of child protection
- The needs and safety of caregivers and infants can be managed appropriately and safely in an open ward environment
- Where there are safety concerns and an assessment of the individuals psychiatric illness and/or primary care giver-infant relationship is required

Patients can be voluntary or compulsory under the MHA14 if there is low risk to the infant. Primary caregivers with suicidal ideation with plan/intent may need to be assessed within the Acute Adult Unit until stabilized before consideration for a PIU admission with an infant.

Exclusion Criteria

If on assessment the primary caregiver is considered to be a danger to

- The infant
- Someone else's infant
- Themselves and is unable to be managed within an open ward

If on review post admission

- The primary caregivers condition deteriorates and they are unable to be managed within the PIU environment
- Being with the infant contributes to the deterioration of the primary caregivers mental state
- There is no improvement in the primary caregivers mental state after a pre-determined number of days and they are unable to care for the infant

Priority of access to PIU will be determined based on clinical need and potential risk to the primary caregiver and infant, or risk of separation that may be avoided through an admission. Admission

will occur following a referral and a subsequent comprehensive mental health assessment by PIU clinical staff to assess need and eligibility.

VISITING HOURS-

- One parent admitted for the first 24 - 48hours; then both parents are welcome to stay on the unit providing both are actively involved in the unit's programs.
- Visitors and siblings are welcome between **2pm and 8pm** Monday to Friday allowing for morning groups/programs to run effectively. On weekends there is more flexibility with visiting hours.

Parent Infant Unit contact number is **54547765**, 24 hours/7 days per week.

All referrals to go through Bendigo Health Psychiatric Triage 1300 363 788.