Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, health services across NSW have been asked to implement changes to practice for both inpatient services and outpatient appointments. These changes have implications on the way usual antenatal care is provided to women. SWSLHD have adopted the NSW Health ministry guideline in this phase of the pandemic and have already started planning a reduction in face to face visits.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR GP ANTENATAL SHARED CARE?**

ANSC is still an appropriate model of care for women who have low risk pregnancies. NSW Health Guidelines indicate that the use of telehealth visits is acceptable for some antenatal care appointments. However, the following appointments MUST be face-face:

- Initial consultation with GP
- 20 week consultation at hospital antenatal clinic
- **28 week consultation with GP**
- 36 week consultation with hospital antenatal clinic
- 40 week consultation with antenatal clinic

For other visits that form part of the ANSC schedule, GPs have the option of either face-to-face or telehealth. **Face-to-face is encouraged**, however please ensure practices are equipped to reduce the infection control risk for the woman.

**COMPLICATIONS MANAGEMENT DURING COVID-19**

Any woman who develops maternal or fetal complications throughout pregnancy will be required to attend the hospital for consultation as per usual care.

- Contact the relevant antenatal clinic to ensure an appointment is made for the woman to be reviewed at the hospital within the appropriate department.
- Advise women to call ahead, so that appropriate risk screening for COVID-19 can occur prior to presenting to a maternity setting.

**GPs ONLY PROVIDING TELEHEALTH DURING COVID-19**

Any ANSC GPs who are no longer providing face-to-face appointments will need to:

- Contact the ANSC women they are caring for and advise them they will need to find another ANSC provider or receive their care through their local hospital. The women will need to call their booking hospital to arrange appointments.
- Contact the GP Liaison Midwife to inform them you are not providing antenatal shared care during the COVID-19 pandemic on 0402 792 820 or 0484 627 228.