

## Maternity care

Maternity care (kraamzorg) is unique in the world. Apart from the Netherlands, there is no other country in the world where women get a nurse who supports them during the maternity week. The tasks of the maternity nurse include teaching you and your partner to take care of the baby and she will help you with breastfeeding. A maternity nurse will stay for approximately 8 days after giving birth. If you stay in the hospital for the first few days, you will receive this care from the hospital and maternity care will be used for the remaining days at home.

If you give birth at home, the maternity nurse will come to you just before the delivery to guide and support you. She assists the midwife during childbirth and is there to support you and your partner. After giving birth, she takes care of you and the baby. If you give birth in the hospital, you call the maternity care organization before you go home.

## Intake interview

Usually between 30 and 36 weeks of pregnancy someone from the maternity care agency comes to your home for a personal intake. She provides you with information and asks questions about your situation and the habits at your household. You can also indicate personal wishes. If you have given birth before, the intake is often by telephone. You always only meet the maternity nurse at the moment of your delivery at home or when you leave the hospital. So you don't know in advance who will come to your place.

## **Request maternity care**

You can sign up with maternity after the term ultrasound. Do this as soon as possible, preferably when you are about 12 weeks pregnant, but no later than in the 20th week. This is the best way to get the number of hours of maternity care you need. You may get fewer hours due to busy periods, for example during holiday periods or during a baby boom. You always receive the legal minimum of maternity care: 24 hours spread over 8 days.

Here are a number of maternity agencies that we work with, and are satisfied with:

De Kraamspecialist 06 411 20 440 www.dekraamspecialist.nl

De Kleine Amsterdammer 020 670 60 60 www.dekleineamsterdammer.nl

De Kraamvogel 088 77 88 500 www.dekraamvogel.nl Mammae Mia 020 640 83 37 www.mammaemia.nl

Geboortecentrum kraamzorg 020 685 38 98 www.geboortecentrum.nl

ZIN kraamzorg 088 77 88 588 www.zinkraamzorg.nl