

New mums more satisfied after giving birth in a public hospital

March 11 2015, by Sandra Hutchinson

Women who give birth in a public hospital are more confident parents compared to women who have babies privately, a new Australian study has found.

A joint study by Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland, surveyed more than 6400 mums in Queensland, and found [women](#) who birth in the [public sector](#) were more likely to receive after-hospital [health care](#), in turn boosting their confidence as a new parent, than women in the private system.

Associate Professor Yvette Miller from QUT's Faculty of Health and one of the authors of the study published in *BMC Health Services Research* said it was a misconception that a private hospital guaranteed better quality care, especially after birth.

"We found that compared to women in a private hospital, women who birthed in the public sector had six times the odds of being telephoned by a care provider, 34 times the odds of being visited at home and five times the odds of visiting a GP within 10 days of being at home.

Professor Miller said in Australia, post-birth care differed greatly between the public and private sector, and the differences are particularly pronounced in Queensland.

"In public hospitals new mums are automatically referred to after-hospital health care and this has a corresponding positive association

with maternal satisfaction," she said.

"Women who birthed in a public facility had twice the odds of being satisfied with the amount of postpartum care they received, than mums who birthed in a private facility."

Professor Miller said interestingly the length of hospital stay was not associated with satisfaction.

"It's commonly assumed that the longer length of time that women spend in hospital after a private hospital birth makes up for the lack of postnatal follow-up care in the private system.

"We found that increased length of hospital stay does not compensate for lack of contact following discharge."

Professor Miller said to improve maternal satisfaction with post-discharge postpartum care women should routinely have contact with a [health](#) professional within days of being home, regardless of length of [hospital stay](#) or sector of birth.

"All women, regardless of whether they birth in a private or public facility, should be able to speak with their GP, a midwife or nurse soon after they are first at home with their baby.

"Providing women with details of a person they can contact 24 hours a day if they have concerns will improve both satisfaction and confidence and is a simple and inexpensive first step to implement."

More information: "Beyond the hospital door: a retrospective, cohort study of associations between birthing in the public or private sector and women's postpartum care."

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4310139/

Provided by Queensland University of Technology

Citation: New mums more satisfied after giving birth in a public hospital (2015, March 11)
retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-03-mums-birth-hospital.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.