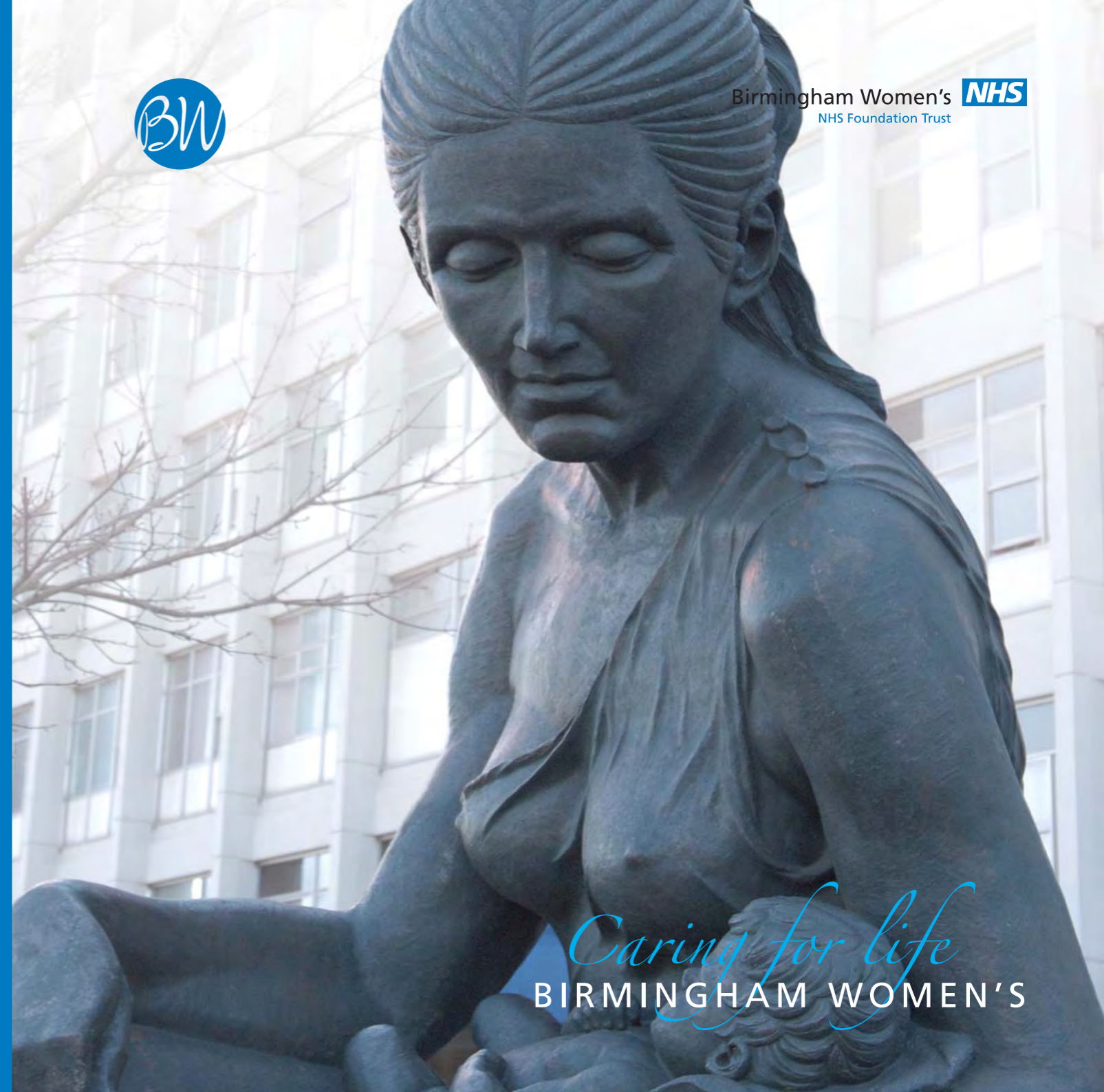




Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust  
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Birmingham Women's   
NHS Foundation Trust



*Caring for life*  
BIRMINGHAM WOMEN'S

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## Birmingham Women's Hospital

Birmingham Women's is a centre of excellence for specialist healthcare for women and their families in the West Midlands. We were established in 1968 and are proud to be one of only two Trusts in the country which specialises in providing care for women and their families.

From our Birmingham base we provide a full range of gynaecological, maternity and neonatal care as well as a comprehensive genetics service. Our Assisted Conception Unit is one of the most successful in the country and we host the National Genetics Education Centre, the West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit and the West Midlands Public Health Observatory.

The Trust's aim is to continue to be a leading provider of local, regional and national importance providing a specialist range of distinct but interrelated services, delivering excellent healthcare, education, training and research, and contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people we serve.

We treat 50,000 patients a year, carry out 3,000 operations and deliver more than 7,000 babies.



# Providing the best possible care

We pride ourselves on being one of the cleanest hospitals in the country. We have not had a case of MRSA Bacteraemia or c-difficile since June 2003 and we have been rated as excellent by the Patient Environment Action Team for our standards of cleanliness. We have regularly been given high scores by the Healthcare Commission for the quality of our services and our financial management.

We have some of the shortest waiting times for treatment in the country. Our patients wait less than 18 weeks to be seen and for their treatment to begin. Suspected cancer patients are seen within two weeks and if cancer is found treatment is started within two months of seeing their GP.

For the latest news on our waiting times and quality please visit our website [www.bwhct.nhs.uk](http://www.bwhct.nhs.uk)

## Our Facilities

As a specialist women's hospital we can guarantee that all of our inpatients are cared for in single-sex wards. Our wards are a mixture of single rooms and four-bedded bays and many have striking views across Birmingham

We have a popular restaurant on the local ground floor which is open for patients, staff and visitors. It

provides a range of hot meals during the day and there is also a WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service) Café and Snack bar near the main entrance.

We have a small pay and display car park directly outside the main entrance with a number of disabled bays. Further parking is available in a large multi-storey car park. For up-to-date car parking charges please see our website [www.bwhct.nhs.uk](http://www.bwhct.nhs.uk)

*" I am proud to say that I have worked at the Women's since August 2005.*

*I am now undertaking my Midwifery degree having gained a valuable insight into the world of Midwifery from all the excellent and professional staff I have ever worked with. I cannot image a better place to work. Yes it has its problems like any large organisation but what an amazing position we are in as midwives and healthcare professionals and what an amazingly skilled, resourceful and professional group of individuals make up the BW team.*

*I had my two children at BWH and the care I received for both was amazing - that is why I decided upon a career change into Midwifery."*  
Charlotte



# Maternity

## Maternity

We deliver more than 7,000 babies every year. We are the regional centre of excellence and take specialist referrals from all over the West Midlands as well as providing a routine maternity service for women within Birmingham,

### We have:

- 19 delivery rooms
- A midwife-led birthing suite which delivers 1,000 babies every year
- 2 operating theatres
- Midwives working in the hospital and the local community

The birth rate in Birmingham and the West Midlands is rising year on year and we are currently looking at how we can meet that demand without compromising our high standards of service and care.

Whilst it is easy to focus on the cutting edge side of our service we don't forget the thousands of women for whom giving birth is a routine and pleasurable experience. We try to provide as many services as we can nearer to people's homes in the

community. One example of this is our community based date scanning service which helps to accurately predict a baby's due date.

Our birth centre is always open and gives women the choice of having their baby in a more homely environment whilst still benefiting from back-up support from our specialist hospital if required. The rooms in the birth centre have hammocks, mood lighting and plenty of space for mums-to-be to move around.

We have two birthing pools which are used during labour and for giving birth.

The majority of pregnancies are uncomplicated and result in the birth of a normal healthy baby. However some pregnancies require additional care for either the mother or her unborn baby (fetus) from our specialist Fetal Medicine Centre.

*"I had all my five children at Birmingham Women's Hospital and now my grandchildren are being born there. I've got six at the moment but another two on the way. The staff were and still are wonderful there they work very hard and deserve every penny and more." Jackie*



# Fetal Medicine

The Fetal Medicine Centre at Birmingham Women's Hospital receives referrals from health professionals throughout the West Midlands and provides a full range of services including:

- Detailed ultrasound scanning for the diagnosis and confirmation of fetal abnormality
- Fetal cardiac (heart) ultrasound scanning for the screening and diagnosis of fetal heart abnormality
- Investigation, therapy and management of suspected or known fetal abnormality
- Investigation into the causes of recurrent miscarriage and later pregnancy loss.
- Pre-pregnancy counselling service for women with maternal medical conditions or previous fetal abnormality

The Centre works closely with professionals from genetics, cytogenetics, antenatal screening and Birmingham Children's Hospital amongst others, in order to provide seamless care for women and their families.

*"I feel like I've got quite a connection with the place – two pregnancies and other complications have made me a user of neonatal unit / ward 2, clinical genetics, fetal medicine, the birth centre - all in addition to excellent midwifery and consultant antenatal care. I am extremely grateful to all the wonderful people across the organisation that were there for my family and I throughout the rollercoaster of joy, excitement, sadness and stress."*  
Emma T





# Neonatal Care

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is the regional referral centre for the West Midlands. There are 32 cots, 8 of which are designated intensive care cots. There are 7 consultant neonatologists and 4 neonatal nurse practitioners.

This is a busy unit which cares for the highest number of small and sick babies in the region. It is one of the few remaining centres which cares for babies with rhesus disease. We have close links with Birmingham Children's Hospital, where the full range of neonatal surgery is carried out, and there is a well established Community Neonatal Service, offering support at home.

The regional Human Milk Bank is based in the Trust and supplies pasteurized breast milk to our babies and other units within the region. There is a Parent Support Group, run by parents and facilitated by a member of the nursing staff.

The highly experienced and motivated nursing and medical staff are supported by equally committed and enthusiastic clerical, domestic staff and nursing assistants.

The unit is currently being upgraded and expanded.

*"I had regular scans for a Rhesus baby through the Rheus clinic, they were fantastic and so supportive at a very uncertain time for us. When my baby was induced the staff were wonderful and very understanding that my husband could stay outside visiting hours considering our home was over an hour away. My baby was very well cared for on the neo-natal unit which I was able to visit and stay any time day or night. My eight day stay was the best care I feel I could have been offered anywhere. Thank you to all the staff who cared for us." - Sarah*





# Fertility Services

Birmingham Women's Hospital has been providing a high standard of care to couples and individuals experiencing fertility problems since 1980. The Assisted Conception Unit (ACU) is the only unit of its type in Birmingham that is based in an NHS hospital. The unit is licensed by the Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority.

Due to our hospital-based location, we are able to provide a full range of fertility, gynaecology and obstetrics services from diagnosis of infertility right through to birth, on one site.

Our clinical, scientific and nursing teams are led by recognised experts in fertility. We have the expertise and facilities to offer the full range of tests and investigations that might be needed, as well as any necessary treatment.

Our embryology laboratory, completed in 2006 is one of the few in Europe, and the only one in Central England, to run as a "clean room" which means that the environment is optimised for the culture of eggs and embryos. This contributes to our goal of delivering the highest standard of care, as we have seen a steady rise in pregnancy rates since moving into these new facilities.

In addition to our standard semen analysis the ACU can offer in house sperm DNA damage and chromosome testing. Through our hospital location we have access to specialists in tubal diagnosis and surgery.

The ACU has recently undergone a complete refurbishment to improve our patient environment and facilities. It is important that our patients feel relaxed and comfortable, because we understand that patients may feel anxious as they prepare for fertility diagnosis and / or treatment.

*"I had IVF treatment at the Assisted Conception Unit and went on to have two healthy boys I will always be eternally grateful for the understanding care and support I received. Thank you all."  
Emma D*



# Gynaecology, Physiotherapy, Imaging and Pathology

## Our Gynaecology services include:

- Treating menstrual disorders at our Hysteroscopy Clinic
- Treating women with prolapse and continence problems at our Urogynaecology Clinic
- Treating women with hormone and menopause problems at our Menopause Clinic.
- Treating gynaecological cancers and pre-invasive disease of the genital tract. Birmingham Women's Hospital has long enjoyed a reputation as a leading centre for research, particularly in respect to gynaecological cancers.

We have a colposcopy unit which is renowned nationally and internationally as providing a friendly yet professional service to women with abnormal smears. The unit conducts research into pre-invasive disease of the cervix.

Our Cytology department is the longest established cervical cytology department in the country and its successful beginnings in 1955 helped to bring about the NHS screening programme set up in 1988.

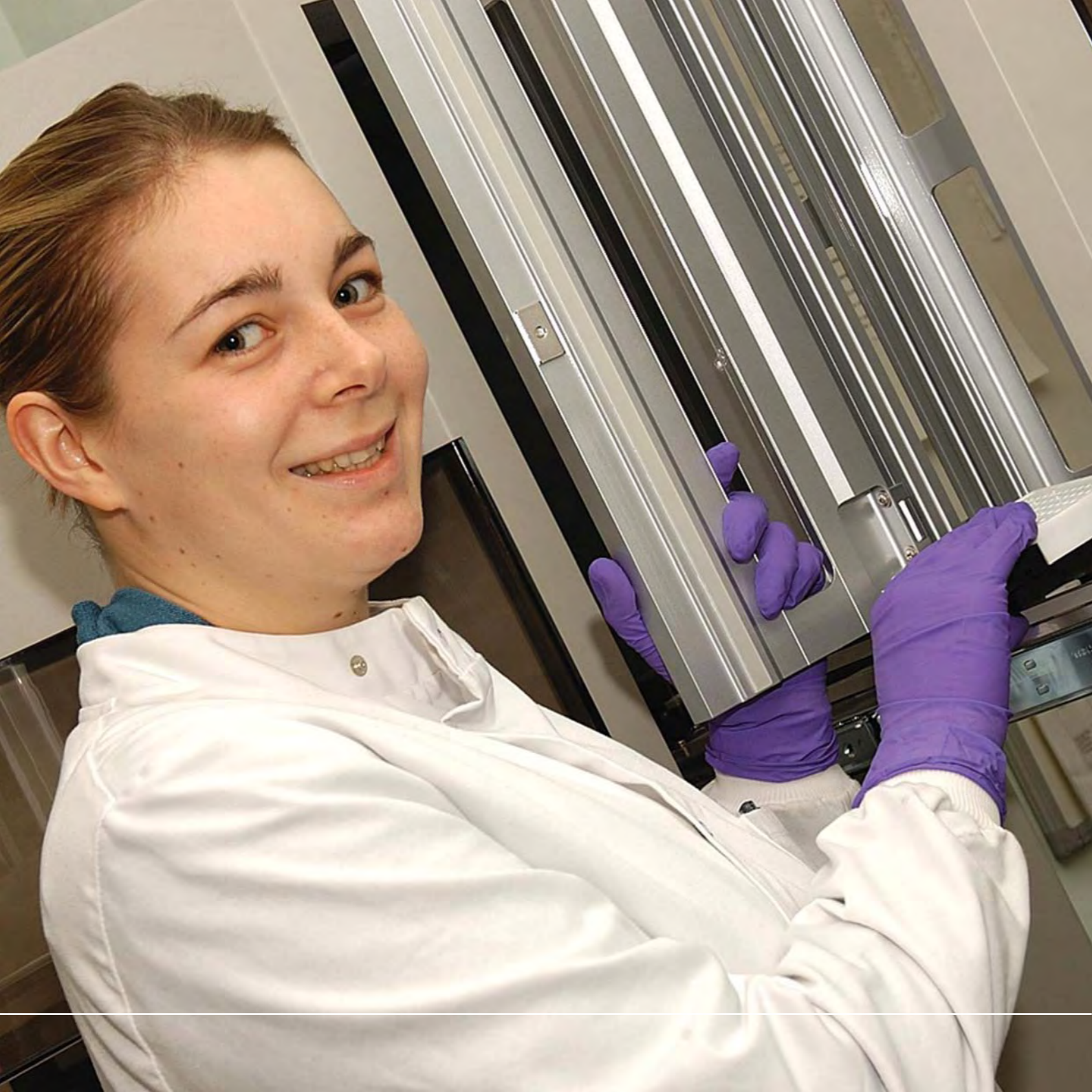
## Physiotherapy:

We have a dedicated team of highly qualified physiotherapists specialising in women's health. The staff help to prepare women physically and mentally for major surgery and provide after care to speed up recovery.

## Imaging and Pathology

We have comprehensive imaging and pathology services which support all our clinical activities.

*"I was under the care of the consultant and his team. I was found to have an ovarian tumour and needed surgery. Within ten days I had not only received the necessary surgery, but been treated with outstanding care and respect by everyone from the consultant to the Nursing Auxilliary. I am sure the care I received helped towards my speedy recovery and I was able to return to work just six weeks later." Anonymous patient:*



# Genetics

## West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory

The West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory is the largest in the United Kingdom, handling more than 45,000 samples every year.

The laboratory is CPA accredited and provides a comprehensive genetic testing service. The services are primarily used by National Health Service patients within the West Midlands region, however we also carry out tests for private consultants and hospitals and have contracts with healthcare institutions both nationally and internationally.

The department performs genetic tests for a wide range of genetic disorders ranging from single gene disorders to whole chromosome abnormalities. Our services include prenatal testing for at risk pregnancies, postnatal testing for conditions such as developmental delay and infertility and specific testing for a variety of syndromes and single gene disorders. Oncology services include cancer diagnosis, monitoring of disease status and post transplant monitoring. The tests we are able to carry out help to provide accurate diagnosis and optimise treatment of genetic disorders. We work in conjunction with the Clinical Genetics counselling service also based at the Birmingham Women's Hospital to ensure that patients receive suitable advice both before testing is offered and after a result has been found.

## West Midlands Clinical Genetics Service

Clinical genetics is a medical speciality which is concerned with the cause, course, diagnosis and treatment of genetic and part-genetic disorders. The service offers a family based diagnostic approach and specialised non-directive counselling skills in clinics in Birmingham and throughout the West Midlands Region. Individuals and families use the Service for information about genetic risks. For some disorders, presymptomatic diagnosis is possible which allows surveillance for complications.

Individuals and families are becoming increasingly aware of the genetic contribution to disease. Many wish to have information so that they can seek to prevent complications in someone who is already affected or to reduce the risk of recurrence within the family.

We aim to meet this need by providing diagnosis, information, risk estimation, genetic counselling, management and support to individual patients and families with genetic disorders, through a family based diagnostic approach and specialised counselling skills

# Other Organisations that are linked with our Trust

## NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre

The NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre is working with a range of groups throughout the UK to facilitate the integration of genetics education into all levels of education and training for all NHS health professionals.

## West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit

The West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit (WMCIU) is part of an international and national network of cancer registries. We have been a population based registry for the West Midlands region since 1957 and have collected data about cancers diagnosed in Birmingham hospitals since 1937. In 1998 the West Midlands breast and cervical screening quality assurance reference centres became part of the WMCIU. The WMCIU also hosts the regional Health Geographical Information Systems Service.

## West Midlands Public Health Observatory

The West Midlands Public Health Observatory (WMPHO) is one of nine regional Public Health Observatories funded by the Department of Health in England. WMPHO is the regional health intelligence organisation providing information and analysis to support those working to improve health and reduce health inequalities in the West Midlands.

Its key overarching role is to:

- promote and deliver health intelligence to decision-makers to improve health and reduce health inequalities
- act as advocates for population health information, ensuring that high-quality, relevant information is available to a range of stakeholders
- be a single port of call for those who need such information
- develop a skilled health intelligence workforce

# Our Foundation

We are a Foundation Trust. We have more than 2,000 members who receive information from us, are invited to special events and can stand for election to our Members' Council. Most importantly, they are encouraged to give their views and opinions about how our Trust is run and how they would like to see our services develop in the future. You can make a difference to healthcare for women and their families by joining our Foundation.

To find out more about becoming a member of our Trust visit our website [www.bwhct.nhs.uk](http://www.bwhct.nhs.uk) or telephone our foundation hotline 0121 627 2695

We want you to join our Foundation Trust and help shape our future.

## If we don't get things right

We like to think that everyone will be satisfied with the treatment we give them but if you feel our care is not good enough you can:

- **Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALs)** which is situated on the ground floor. The friendly, helpful staff can help deal with any concerns you may have and guide you through some of the difficult paperwork.

The PALs telephone number is 0121 627 2747.

