Pregnant women can book to see their community midwife without going to see their GP first, thanks to technology introduced by BUMP.

It could save at least 25,000 GP appointments when it is rolled out across our Local Maternity System (LMS) later this year.

Currently 88% of local women book an appointment with their GP, who then refers them to the maternity service. However, women from two GP surgeries in Birmingham are already able to directly refer themselves, removing the need for a GP appointment. For women, the advantages are equally as impressive including a fast track referral to a community midwife. However, women who become ill while on holiday or away from their local maternity unit.

The maternity notes app is available to pregnant women whose maternity care is provided by either Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trust or University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation NHS Trust and is accessed with a unique log-in which is provided by their midwife.

Mary Passant, Programme Manager for BUMP said: “I am delighted that local women are amongst the first in the country to have the convenience of accessing their notes digitally. Over the coming months, people can expect to see more and more content added to the app which will make it an even more valuable resource for pregnant women.”

The app is powered by BadgerNet, which is a secure platform used by midwives and other healthcare professionals as the electronic patient care record.

Coming Soon…
Health information and virtual tours set for the future
Over the coming months, the Maternity Notes app will be further developed to include information that pregnant women will find useful. A whole host of leaflets will be available to download on subjects from healthy eating in pregnancy through to safe sleeping advice. Plans also include adding videos which explain neonatal care and what happens if a baby is born early. In addition, special virtual tours of the birth centres and maternity units across our Local Maternity System (LMS) will also be available so women can have a look around what is available within our LMS without leaving the comfort of their home.

Single Maternity Record
A single maternity record that spans Birmingham and Solihull is being created. BUMP has been working with Birmingham Women’s and Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull hospitals to create a single maternity record that can be accessed by any of the providers. Using the existing BadgerNet system, it will allow clinical staff to view and write to single maternity record, instead of the current situation where each Trust has its own maternity record and a woman can end up with multiple records if she receives care from more than one Trust.

The three Trusts are currently testing the system and plan to go live in April 2019. The single record will improve clinical safety as all clinical information will be available to staff wherever they need it; it will also reduce waste and frustration, as women will only be “booked” once and will no longer be asked the same questions on multiple occasions.

Access is also being made available for other health professionals, in particular GPs and Health Visitors.
A trial to help improve the experience of pregnant women by giving them continuity in their pregnancy and birth has been a fantastic success. More than 250 women from across east Birmingham opted to have their antenatal appointments from 28 weeks at the Willow Birth Centre at Heartlands Hospital as part of a new initiative to increase continuity of carer. Launched in February 2018, women who were having a complication free pregnancy were offered their antenatal care appointments with midwives in the alongside midwifery led care unit instead of with their community midwives. The result has been that women get to know the team of midwives and maternity support workers and are more likely to know the midwife who cares for them in labour. This has increased the number of women who have been cared for by someone who was familiar to them.

One new mum said: “It was really good to be able to see a familiar face when I went into labour. Having appointments in the hospital are a great idea because I got to know the environment long before I had my baby. The staff were fantastic and I can’t thank them enough for the care they gave me and my baby.”

Sandra Orton, Director of Operations / Head of Midwifery at UHB said: “I am so proud of the team who have successfully ran this trial in the Willow Birth Centre. Continuity of carer is important to women and their families and being able to provider this in our Birth Centre is fantastic.”

**Continuity of Carer Events**

Over 100 midwives, maternity support workers and obstetricians attended two special continuity of carer events in January. Held in Birmingham city centre, the two one day events were an opportunity to hear from leading experts in continuity of carer from the Royal College of Midwives.

Attendees heard about how continuity of carer models work in practice and the benefits for women, their families and their midwives. The events were an opportunity for staff to share their thoughts and ideas.

The events proved so successful that another two training dates are already fully booked. If you are a health professional within our Local Maternity Service and would be interested in attending a future event please email us project_bump@nhs.net

**Link Support Worker role to be developed**

BUMP were successful in securing a Health Education England grant to fund the role of Link Support Worker (LSW). Birmingham and Solihull are amongst the most diverse populations in England, and the vision for this role is that it will help women whose first language isn’t English to access personalised care, improve safety and provide continuity of carer with Local Support Workers working alongside midwives and obstetricians by providing clear communication routes in the predominant languages to include Urdu, Arabic, Polish and Romanian.

**Carbon Monoxide delivered to community midwives across the local maternity system**

More than 130 carbon monoxide monitors were delivered across the local maternity system by BUMP as part on an initiative to help reduce smoking in pregnancy. The monitors will be used by community midwives and the Homebirth team during antenatal care. In other areas of the country where carbon monoxide monitoring is well established, there are reports of almost double the number of pregnant women quitting smoking during pregnancy with the support of their midwife. Community Midwife Ronia Nyakunika said: “I think the carbon monoxide monitors are a great idea because it will enable us to help women who want to quit to get the right support which will have a positive on their health and their baby’s health.”

**Neonatal Network**

The project has appointed a Neonatal Clinical Lead who now chairs the Neonatal Workstream meeting. The group is currently focused on three key developments; Neonatal Critical Care Community Outreach across the LMS, in-utero transfers and the funding of neonatal care across the LMS. We will keep you updated on their work.