Antenatal care should be provided by a small group of carers with whom the woman feels comfortable. There should be continuity of care throughout the antenatal period.

Healthcare professionals should be alert to the symptoms or signs of domestic violence and women should be given the opportunity to disclose domestic violence.

Planning care: assessment

- Healthy pregnant woman
- Are any of the following present?
  - Conditions such as hypertension, cardiac or renal disease, epilepsy, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, cancer, HIV
  - Factors that make the woman vulnerable such as lack of social support
  - Age 40 years and older or 18 years and younger
  - BMI greater than or equal to 35 or less than 18
  - Previous caesarean section
  - Severe pre-eclampsia, HELLP or eclampsia
  - Previous pre-eclampsia or eclampsia
  - Three or more miscarriages
  - Previous psychosomatic or puerperal psychosis
  - Previous neonatal death or stillbirth
  - Previous baby with congenital abnormality
  - Previous SGA or LGA infant
  - Family history of genetic disorder
  - Substance use

These women are likely to need additional care which is outside the scope of this guideline. The care outlined here is the 'baseline care'. For these women refer to 'Antenatal Care Guidelines' index

The following interventions are NOT recommended components of routine antenatal care:
- Repeated maternal weighing
- Breast examination
- Pelvic examination
- Screening for postnatal depression using EPDS
- Iron supplementation
- Vitamin D supplementation
- Screening for the following infections:
  - chlamydia
  - cytomegalovirus
  - hepatitis C
  - group B streptococcus
  - toxoplasmosis
  - bacterial vaginosis
- Screening for gestational diabetes mellitus (including diet/look testing for glycosuria)
- Screening for preterm birth by assessment of cervical length (either by USS or VE) or by using fetal fibronectin
- Formal fetal movement counting
- Antenatal electronic cardiotocography
- Ultrasound scanning after 24 weeks
- Umbilical artery Doppler USS
- Uterine Doppler USS to predict pre-eclampsia

This algorithm should where necessary be interpreted with reference to the full guideline