

## **New procedures to safeguard against transmission of COVID-19 when assessing/undertaking tongue-tie division (Frenulotomy)**

Home visits have been redesigned to allow minimum contact time due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

### **Before a home visit**

Gill will need to assess you for COVID-19 symptoms during a video interview prior to any visit.

During the Facetime/WhatsApp interview, Gill will take a feeding history from the parents to elicit what problems are present.

We can go through the physical assessment of tongue-tie, procedure for tongue-tie division, immediate aftercare, feeding support access and any questions.

An email attachment of the following will be sent:

1. ATP tongue-tie sheet (Association of tongue-tie practitioners)
2. My information on my tongue-tie service, costs and payment
3. A 'consent for examination/Frenulotomy' form
4. A privacy notice sheet
5. If required – *Swaddle Instructions*. Please Note that you will need to provide your own long towel, blanket or swaddle and know how to swaddle a baby so the arms are secured and tucked down.

## **During a home visit**

Please note the following precautionary measures:

- An adult (usually parent) present is able to assist Gill – swaddle and hold the baby's shoulders if the baby is going to have the procedure of tongue-tie division.
- The person assisting Gill will need to wear a mask, which Gill can provide. Any other person in close proximity in the room will also need to wear a mask.

## **Gill will use:**

- PPE (Personal Protective equipment) – hair covering, overshoe covers, apron, mask and gloves. These will be put on at the door. Hand gel will be used to cleanse hands and gloves
- For the examination/tongue-tie procedure, Gill will wear glasses. Tongue-tie division is not an aerosol-generating procedure (AGP) and therefore goggles or visor are not required. Sterile gloves will be used along with sterile single-use scissors and gauze
- Any non-disposable equipment e.g. head lamp is either cleaned down or left in quarantine for 72 hours between usage.

## **After a tongue-tie division**

The baby needs to be fed immediately. Gill will give you an aftercare leaflet if tongue-tie division has been done and a sticker to put into baby's red book. The wound will be checked before leaving your home, to ensure any bleeding has ceased. Tongue exercises will be explained.

All clinical waste and sharps used will be taken away by Gill for correct disposal, as agreed with the CQC (Care Quality Commission).

At the end of the tongue-tie examination/procedure, payment can be accepted by cash, counted out by you, or through Gill's phone and card machine, which will be in new plastic sandwich bags to minimise touch. Apple Pay or Google Pay is a completely contactless method of paying, so if you can use this method, it is preferable. If you require a receipt for cash, please request one and it can be emailed to you after the home visit.

Please refer to [tonguetieaway.co.uk](https://www.tonguetieaway.co.uk) for further information.