



We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18802.

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید۔

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Ashford Hospital
London Road
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3AA
Tel: **01784 884488**

St. Peter's Hospital
Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey
KT16 0PZ.
Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk

Information following the loss of a baby (before the completion of 24 weeks of pregnancy)

Information following the loss of a baby (before the completion of 24 weeks of pregnancy)

This leaflet is intended to give you additional information to that received from a healthcare professional.

CARING FOR YOU AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME

Our midwives and doctors are here to help you in any way they can. They will try to answer your questions and to offer you the support you need. This will be an emotional time for you.

SPECIAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL NEEDS

You may have very specific Spiritual, religious, cultural or other needs, and we wish to ensure that these needs are met. Please let us know what your requirements are, and how we can help and support you.

MEMENTOS

You may wish to take your mementos home, or you may ask for them to be kept in your medical records. This is a personal decision. Some women like to keep the mementos, and have found taking them home very comforting.

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Bereavement Support Midwives	01932 722879
The Patient Affairs Officer	01932 722319
Hospital Chaplain via Hospital Switchboard	01932 872000
Birth Reflections Service	01932 722879
The Miscarriage Association	01924 200799
ARC - Ante-Natal Results and Choices	020 7631 0285
SANDS (The Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)	
Office telephone number/helpline	020 7436 5881
Monday-Friday 09.30 - 17.30 hours or answerphone out of hours	
Email:	Helpline@UK-SANDS.Org
Website:	www.UK-SANDS.org

Department for Works and Pensions - www.dwp.gov.uk/

Woking Crematorium	01483 472197
The Natural Death Centre (for information and guidance on woodland burial)	020 7359 8391

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you still remain concerned please contact our Complaints Manager on 01932 722612 or email complaints@asph.nhs.uk.

Author: Women's Health Group

Department: Women's Health

Version: 1

Published: Feb 2008

Review: Feb 2009

ENTITLEMENT TO TIME OFF WORK AND BENEFITS

Prior to 24 weeks of pregnancy Benefits

If you miscarry before 24 weeks or have a medical termination before 24 weeks there is no entitlement to Statutory Maternity Pay or Maternity Allowance.

Sick Leave

If you miscarry your baby before 24 weeks, or have a medical termination of pregnancy before 24 weeks you will be unable to have maternity leave.

If you feel you are not ready to return to work immediately, you are advised to talk to your GP about taking sick leave. Sick leave related to a miscarriage is “protected” in the same way as any sick leave taken during pregnancy. This means that the amount of sick leave that a woman can take is not limited and must be recorded separately from other sick leave taken. You may decide that you wish to return to work.

CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

The hospital holds an annual Ceremony of Remembrance for children who die at any age from early pregnancy to adulthood. This is held on the last Saturday in **June**. For further details, please contact the Hospital Chaplain or the Bereavement Support Midwives.

A POST-MORTEM FOR YOUR BABY

It is not usual to be offered a post mortem for babies less than 24 weeks. However occasionally your consultant may recommend a post mortem if he/she thinks it will help confirm the reason why your baby has died.

If it is felt appropriate for your baby to have a post mortem your baby will be taken to the perinatal specialist pathology unit at St George’s Hospital, London.

The Patient Affair Officer will liaise with St George’s Hospital for the appropriate time to collect your baby following post mortem. It can take up to three weeks for baby to be returned for the funeral.

Following a post mortem an appointment will be made for you to meet with your consultant in about 10 weeks time this allows time for all the results to be returned.

If your baby has not had a post mortem you will not routinely be given an appointment with your consultant. You should arrange an appointment to see your GP for your six week post-natal check.

ARRANGING A FUNERAL

Hospital Cremation Service

There is no legal requirement for a funeral to be held for your baby. However, a cremation service for **very early babies** is held each month, usually on the first Wednesday at 09.00 hours at Woking Crematorium. It will not always be possible to include your baby in the service closest in date to your baby's birth, so the date will not be given to you on the Labour Ward.

There are normally four babies included in each service. Each baby has an individual coffin. A special mention of your baby will be made in the service. Even if you do not have a religious faith you might find this simple service of some comfort. It will last no more than 15 minutes.

Parents are able to attend this service; this is an individual choice as some parents feel it is not something they wish to do.

The Hospital Chaplain or one of the Patient Affairs Officers will contact you to inform you of the date and ask if you wish to attend the service. You are welcome to discuss any special requirements with the Hospital Chaplain.

Private Funeral Arrangements

If you prefer to make private funeral arrangements for your baby, the Patient Affairs Officer (**01932 722319**) can help you choose a funeral director local to you. There may be some costs involved, but you will be able to discuss these with your chosen funeral director. However, if you decide on a **burial** service, there may be local charges for a burial plot.

TAKING YOUR BABY HOME

Occasionally parents feel – perhaps for religious or cultural reasons – that they would like to take their baby home for burial. If this is something you wish to do, there are certain conditions which must be met. You may like to discuss this with the person looking after you or with the Bereavement Support Midwives.

GOING HOME

You will be asked if you would wish a community midwife to visit you at home. This is an individual choice as some women feel they would not want a visit whilst other women find a visit helpful. If you have requested a visit the community midwife will contact you to arrange a time.

You may experience some leakage of breast milk; wear a good supporting bra and this should settle in time.

You can contact a community midwife by telephoning **01932 722413** between 09.00 and 15.00 hours.

One of the Hospital Bereavement Midwives will also call you about one week after you have gone home and can be contacted on **01932 722879**