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

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

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## Consent for Laboratory Examination and Cremation or Sensitive Disposal of Early Pregnancy Loss up to 11+6 weeks

This includes miscarriages, patients undergoing surgical management of miscarriage (SMM) and surgical treatment of ectopic pregnancy



## **Patient Information leaflet on consent for laboratory examination and sensitive disposal or early pregnancy loss up to 11+6 weeks**

Your decisions are important to us. This information is provided to assist you in choosing whether your pregnancy loss tissue is examined and deciding how the pregnancy loss will be disposed.

We are mindful that some of the language used in this leaflet may be difficult but we are obliged to make clear your options using this terminology.

**If you are unsure or need further information at any time, please speak to your doctor, midwife or nurse.**

The law requires your permission to undertake examination and disposal of pregnancy tissue. The hospital has procedures in place which are governed by the Human Tissue Authority (2015).

### **What examination will be made of the pregnancy loss?**

Information can be obtained from looking at tissue samples visually, however, sometimes the only way to understand what is going on is to look at the tissue under a microscope.

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### **Further Information**

We endeavor 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 Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [patient.advice@asph.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.advice@asph.nhs.uk). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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## References

Human Tissue Authority Code of Practice 5. The removal, storage and disposal of human organs and tissue. 2015

Royal College of Nursing. Sensitive disposal of foetal remains, Guidance for nurses and midwives. October 2002, revised February 2007.

Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management. Policy document for the disposal of foetal remains. January 2004 revised 2015

SANDS. Pregnancy Loss and the death of a baby: Guidelines for Professionals 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2016

## Further Support

The Miscarriage Association 01924 200799

## How will this examination help me?

Examination of the tissue and the cells may present valuable information about the presence of specific diseases or problems related to the placenta. Although this examination often provides no specific explanation for what happened to you on this occasion, it may provide information which could affect your future treatment. Please, be aware this is not a genetic test.

## Does the tissue have to be examined?

No. It is your decision whether to allow this examination. Your doctor, nurse or midwife will be able to advise you how important this examination is in your case.

## How is this examination performed?

In order to look at the tissue under the microscope small pieces of tissue are placed into small plastic blocks. These blocks are normally about 20mm (less than one inch) square and about 5mm thick. This is approximately the size of a fifty pence piece. This is then cut into thin slices with a sharp knife. The slices are very thin – ten times thinner than a hair. These sections are placed on a glass slide and stained with special dyes to enable the cells to be looked at under a microscope by a special doctor (a pathologist) who provides the result in a written report.

## **What happens to the slides and blocks after they have been examined?**

Slides and blocks make up a part of your medical records for 30 years.

## **Why would blocks and slides be kept?**

Blocks and slides make up a part of your medical record which may be reviewed in the future if necessary. Blocks and slides can be used anonymously to improve understanding of the disease process (research) or monitor the examination process itself (audit)

## **What are my options for disposal of the pregnancy tissue?**

We offer you the following choices:

- The hospital has an agreement with the local crematorium who will cremate pregnancy losses. The pregnancy loss is sensitively handled by all staff throughout the process and each loss is kept separately. They are taken together for cremation and this is done anonymously with up to twenty losses at a time. No service takes place at the crematorium. The ashes are scattered collectively in the Lewis Carroll Garden at Woking Crematorium.

- You can make your own arrangements for burial or cremation. If you choose to have the pregnancy loss examined under the microscope, the loss can still be returned to you for burial or cremation.
- The pregnancy loss can be incinerated in the same way that the hospital disposes of clinical waste.

## **Who can I contact if I have any other questions or concerns?**

The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU): 01932 722662

Please note that the EPU is open Monday to Friday 09.00 to 16.00