

## Information about Shared Cremation

It can be difficult for us to determine whether you have only passed blood during your miscarriage, or if you have passed your baby. Sometimes we can see clearly, but other times we may need to send the bleeding off to the laboratory for them to examine under a microscope, so that we can be completely sure.

### **What do you do if I *have* passed my baby?**

Once the laboratory confirms that foetal tissue is in the sample, we will confirm that with you (if you would like to know). We normally ask you to repeat a pregnancy test two weeks after a miscarriage to ensure that it has returned to negative and that your bleeding has stopped. Normally, the baby tissue will then go to the mortuary and then to the local crematorium, where we will carry out a shared cremation. The chaplain from the hospital will hold a short service, which you will be able to attend if you would like.

### **What if foetal tissue is not found in the sample?**

This doesn't mean you haven't miscarried or your surgery hasn't worked. It just means that we may not have seen foetal tissue under the microscope in this sample. You will still be asked to repeat a pregnancy test or we may ask you to attend for a blood test or an ultrasound.

This tissue will not go to the crematorium, but will go through a similar protocol, called 'reverent' care

### **I had no foetal tissue, but I would like to attend a service?**

The chaplains are able to support you through your loss, across all religions, and may be able to offer you a service within the hospital faith centre. Please let us know if you would like us to contact them on your behalf.

### **Does all of my baby / the bleeding go for cremation/reverent care?**

When the laboratory carries out their tests, they take what is known as slides or blocks. A small sample of tissue is placed on the slide and put under the microscope. Normally these do not go for reverent or cremation, but are kept in the Trust for 30 years.

### **Why would you need to keep my sample?**

If your result was ever questioned or if you need any further genetic testing in the future, these slides can be pulled and looked at again. If you would like, we can send everything for sensitive/reverent care as outlined above, but we will not be able to re-investigate that sample in the future.

### **What if I don't want a cremation?**

If you don't want a cremation, you have the right to make your own arrangements and take the remains away. Normally the lab will take about 2-4 weeks to carry out their tests, and then you could come and collect the baby or foetal tissue from our bereavement centre. Please let us know if you want the slides/blocks as well.

### **What do I do now?**

If you know what you would like to do, please let us know and we can carry out your wishes. If you are not sure what you would like to do at the moment, don't worry. Take some time to consider your options, talk to your family or the nurses that are caring for you. The chaplain is also happy to come and talk through the options with you if you would like. But please let the nurses know that you are still considering what to do to ensure that we look after the pregnancy tissue properly, the way you would want us to do.

**When does shared cremation happen?**

Normally there is a shared cremation every month, and depending on when you have gone through your loss, would depend on when your pregnancy would be included in this. Normally the timescale is about 3-8 weeks after your loss. It is important to tell staff if you are undecided, so that we can make sure nothing happens until you are sure.

**What if I need more information?**

Ask the nurses who are caring for you today and they can give you more information. We can ask the chaplain to come and see you today or you can contact the Unit that cared for you on the numbers below

**Contact Details:**

<p>The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU), Treatment Centre, <b>Hinchingbrooke Hospital</b>, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT</p> <p>Opening days may vary</p>	<p>The Emergency Gynaecology Assessment Unit (EGAU), Women’s Health Outpatients, Bretton Gate, <b>Peterborough (City Hospital)</b>, PE3 9GZ</p> <p>Open: Weekdays 0800-1800 Weekend and bank holidays 0800-1200</p>
<p>Central triage line for EPU and EGAU: 01733 673758 (voicemail will cut in when the line is engaged – <u>please leave a message for a call back.</u></p> <p><b><a href="http://www.womenshealthpeterborough.co.uk">www.womenshealthpeterborough.co.uk</a></b></p>	
<p>For emergencies only, out of these hours, please attend the Emergency Department</p>	