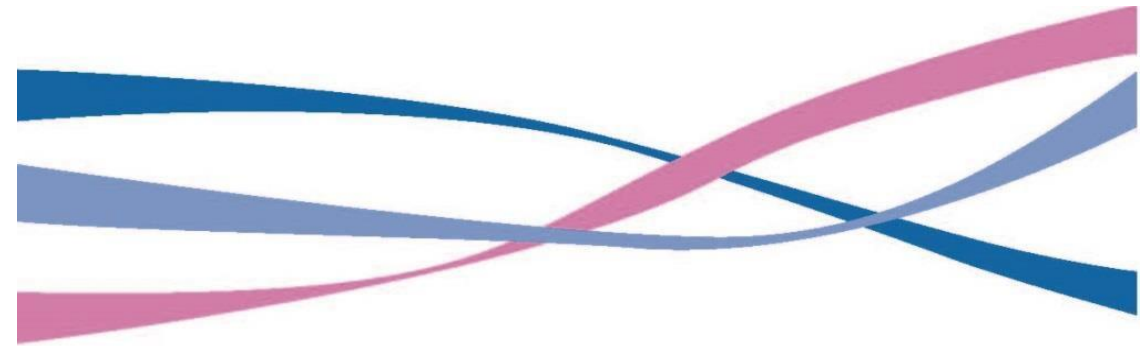


Taking Home Tissue from Early Pregnancy Loss (up to 12 weeks)

Important information for patients



This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please telephone 01270 612284.



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Contact Numbers

Bereavement Manager	01270 273882
Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)	01270 273723
Ward 12	01270 612199
Hospital Chaplains ask for Chaplains	01270 255141(Switchboard)
Miscarriage Association Helpline (Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm) www.themiscarriageassociation.org.uk	01924 200799
The Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration www.iccm-uk.com	01753 771518

Transport from hospital

The tissue cannot be taken home on public transport. Parents sometimes feel it is hard to drive themselves. If you feel like this arrange for a relative or friend to drive you home. When you leave hospital, if you wish, a member of staff will walk with you to the car.

What Health and Safety issues should I be aware of?

Please ensure that tissue released directly from the mortuary is kept in cold conditions until the time of the burial. The tissue must not be kept in places where foodstuffs are stored, such as a domestic refrigerator or freezer. One solution might be to double wrap the remains container in plastic bags, place in a bowl and surround with ice or ice packs. Ideally, tissue should be buried within six hours of release from hospital.

What happens if I change my mind?

If you are unable to make the arrangements as planned, or no longer wish to deal with this yourself, you may contact either a Funeral Director or the Bereavement office, both of whom will be able to offer advice on other options available.

Introduction

Following miscarriage or medical termination, you may choose to take the products of conception or foetal tissue home with you on discharge from the ward and arrange for them to be buried on a piece of land that is not a recognised cemetery or churchyard, or to make arrangements through a funeral director.

This information leaflet aims to explain the process and procedure that is followed when you choose this option. This information applies **only** to tissue remains from pregnancies that have ended **before 12 weeks gestation**.

I would like to make my own arrangements but do not know how I will feel

Staff understand that this is a very difficult time for you and will support you in whatever decision you make. Staff will explain the options that are available to you. If you would like to talk to someone further about your decision then please speak to the nursing staff or contact the Bereavement Manager on 01270 273882 between 8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Are there any legal requirements?

There is no legal requirement to register a baby that is not born alive before 24 weeks' gestation.

There are no specific legal requirements when thinking about burial in your own garden or other premises. The Planning and Environmental Health Office at the City Council or your local council can inform you of any by-laws or local regulations that may affect the burial.

There are a number of recommendations and points to be considered when thinking about where to bury the remains. These are:

- Danger must not be caused to others.
- It must not interfere with any rights that others have on the land.
- There must be no danger to water supplies or water courses.
- There must be no chance of fluids leaking into or onto adjoining land.

- The burial should take place at a depth greater than 24" / 60cms.
- Permission should be gained from the landowner.
- You may want to consider putting the fact that products of conception are buried in a private garden on the deeds of the property.
- The value of the property may decrease.
- If the site is to be marked, consideration must be given to neighbours who might find this distressing.
- You may also wish to give careful thought to having a burial in a residential garden.

The main points to consider are: what would your wishes be for the grave if you were to move house, or if in the future the land were to be used for a new purpose.

How will the tissue be returned to me?

The hospital requires that the person who takes the tissue from the hospital sign a document that authorises release. If you are not able to do this, a named member of your family or your funeral director can do this for you.

Tissues that are released will be released directly from the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit or Ward 25 by an allocated nurse. The released tissue will be wrapped in absorbent biodegradable material to minimise any risk of leakage and compassionately placed into biodegradable cardboard box.