

What happens if no further FMU appointments are required?

You will be referred back to Consultant or Community Midwife care, as appropriate.

Fetal Medicine Unit contact numbers:

Tel: 01270 612171 / 273775 Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm (excluding bank holidays)

Emergency contact numbers

Tel: 01270 612144 / 273116 (24 hours a day)

Support Group Contact numbers

SANDS – www.uk-sands.org 020 7436 5881
(Stillbirth and Neonatal Death charity)

CLAPA – www.clapa.com 020 7833 4883
(Cleft Lip and Palate Association)

Steps – www.steps-charity.org.uk 01925 750271

Downs Syndrome Association – www.downs-syndrome.org.uk 0333 1212 300

ARC – www.arc-uk.org 0845 077 2290
(Antenatal Results and Choices)

British Heart Foundation – www.bhf.org.uk 0300 330 3322
(Monday to Friday
9.00am to 5.00pm)

This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.

Important information for patients

Fetal Medicine Unit



About us:

The Fetal Medicine Unit (FMU) is a specialist area within Maternity Outpatients that delivers care for women referred during the antenatal period that require closer observation or investigations. The FMU team comprises of Consultants specialising in Fetal Medicine and Midwives who work alongside them. As well as working clinically the Midwives also provide support to women. This care is mainly delivered on an outpatient basis however, if you are admitted into hospital it is usual for planned care to be continued with close liaison between wards and the FMU team.

FMU clinics run three times a week and you will be given an allotted time for each appointment. An important point to remember is that due to the complex nature of conditions, unexpected findings may be diagnosed on an Ultrasound Scan (USS) and appointments may over-run causing a delay. Whilst a delay may be frustrating we ask you to be mindful that the women before you may be receiving sensitive news.

If an unexpected condition is found during your USS, extra time will immediately be given for any explanations and implications of the condition(s) found. If you have other children, please ensure that appropriate childcare is arranged in case your appointment is delayed.

We aim to keep you updated by displaying clinic time delays behind the reception area and on the white board located on the wall in reception.

What additional services does FMU offer?

- Specialist Consultant appointments.
- Specialist USS facilities.
- Close fetal surveillance.
- Continuity with FMU Midwives.
- Consultant Paediatrician appointments.
- Postnatal follow-up with an FMU Consultant.

How many appointments will I have?

The number and frequency of appointments will depend on the reason for referral. This will be discussed at your first appointment.

Why have I been referred to FMU?

You have been referred to us because you may have:

- A suspected or confirmed fetal anomaly seen on USS.
- A high risk result on ante-natal screening test.
- Confirmed haemaglobinopathy/antibodies.
- A family history of an inherited condition.
- A medical condition that requires specialist input/medication which potentially may affect your pregnancy.
- Concerns with fetal growth.
- A multiple pregnancy.

What happens following a referral?

Depending on the reason for referral, you may either see or be contacted by a FMU Midwife. You will be given information and the opportunity to discuss options and if necessary review with a FMU Consultant. The timing of this appointment will be decided on a case by case basis.

What happens at the FMU appointment?

You will be greeted by the FMU Midwife and be shown into the scan room. The FMU Consultant will perform a scan followed by a discussion of the scan findings. A plan of care will be formulated and discussed with you. Any investigations and follow-up appointments will be arranged.

What happens if a problem is detected?

The findings from the scan will be discussed and an appropriate management plan will be put in place, this may include one or all of the following:

- Follow-up scan in FMU.
- Referral to a Consultant Paediatrician to discuss the care of your baby once it is born.
- Diagnostic testing.
- Referral to a tertiary centre, if you or your baby needs more specialised care.

