



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 18001.

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

Advice and Guidance for parents wishing to take their deceased baby home

Women's Health and Paediatrics



This leaflet is intended to help guide you through the practical steps to enable you to take your baby home. All women and parents should be offered the choice of whether they wish to take their baby home.

INTRODUCTION

This could be the most traumatic and emotional time of your lives and you may be experiencing feelings that vary from shock to disbelief. During this time it is not always easy to focus on what the midwifery and nursing staff are saying to you and so this leaflet will help to clarify some of the practical advice that you will need.

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 Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you remain concerned, PALS can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Author: Women's Health guidelines group **Department:** Women's Health & Paediatrics

Version: 3

Published: Nov 2014

Review: Nov 2017

This is a very difficult and emotional time all the family and below is a list of contact details that may be useful to you now and / or in the future.

Bereavement Support Midwives	01932 722879
Counselling Support	01932 722879
NICU Support Nurse	01932 723889 / 722667
Hospital Chaplain, via switchboard	01932 872000
Bereavement Officer	01932 722319
Registrar of Births and Deaths Weybridge Register Office, Oatlands Drive, Weybridge KT13 9LN	01932 794712
The Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (Sands) Surrey Sands: www.surrey-sands.org.uk SW London	0781 7410075 0795 1229425
The Natural Death Centre (for information and guidance on woodland burials)	0871 288 2098

TRANSPORTING YOUR BABY HOME

- It would be advisable to have a family member / friend to take you all home, the journey may be very emotional and this could compromise your safety.
- You can carry your baby either in your arms or in a Moses basket. If you do not have one then we may be able to provide one for you to borrow.
- Parking your car as near to the maternity unit as possible would be advisable, staff will be able to suggest the best place for you.
- A member of staff will accompany you and your baby to your car.
- You will be given a copy of the “Taking your baby home” form which you have signed. This will prevent any misunderstandings should you get stopped on the way home or if you are involved in any road traffic accident during your journey.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT HOME

Unfortunately the condition of your baby will start to change over time so it is important that you try and slow down the progression of these changes.

The changes may be:

- Discoloration of the skin
- Peeling of the skin
- Slight oozing of blood from the nose
- Temporary stiffness
- Coolness of the skin

To help slow down this deterioration it is important that you are aware of how to care for your baby in the home environment

- Keep the baby in a cool room, with no heating on.
- Keep all windows closed, especially in hot weather
- Ensure all pets are kept out of the room
- Use a muslin / net / light cotton covering over baby's basket
- It is important to keep your baby cool. This is best achieved by placing your baby on any kind of a covered ice pack which will protect them and keep them dry.
- A cold plate may be available for you to borrow for use at home if you would prefer, rather than using ice packs.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- You will need to contact the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths to arrange an appointment to register your baby's birth / death. This is only if you have been given a death certificate by a midwife / doctor whilst in hospital.
- The Bereavement Officer from Ashford and St. Peters Hospitals will contact you on the next working day. If your baby needs to be returned to the hospital for a post mortem the Bereavement Officer will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.
- You will need to make contact with a funeral director to commence arrangements for your baby's funeral. The Bereavement Officer can provide you with a list of local funeral directors if required.
- If you come to the decision that you longer wish to have your baby at home you will need to contact your chosen funeral director, who will make the appropriate arrangements with you. However, if you are having a hospital cremation service please contact the hospital Bereavement Office who will arrange a convenient time for you to bring baby back to the hospital mortuary.