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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

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

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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

May we offer our condolences to you at this difficult time.

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.

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
Early Pregnancy Unit	01932 722662
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: https://www.sands.org.uk/ SW London	0781 7410075 0795 1229425
The Natural Death Centre (for information and guidance woodland burials)	0871 288 2098
Miscarriage Association info@miscarriageassociation.org.uk	01924 200799

Further Information

We endeavour 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 asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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Pregnancy Loss after 24 weeks gestation:

- You will need to contact the Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths to arrange an appointment to register your baby's birth / death.
- If your baby needs to be returned to the hospital for a postmortem the Bereavement Officer will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.
- You will need to make contact with a funeral director or faith leader to commence arrangements for your baby's funeral.
- If you come to the decision that you no 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.
- If you have chosen to take your baby home, a community midwife will visit daily while your baby is at home for support.

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. We can also provide a small casket for carrying your baby.
- 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.
- You may like a member of staff to accompany you and your baby to your car. Please ask if you would like this.
- 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 or an electric cooling blanket (known as a cuddle cot) may be available for you to borrow for use at home if you would prefer, rather than using ice packs.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Pregnancy loss pre 24 weeks gestation:

- There is no legal process for you to register your loss.
- You may take your baby home and either
 - Bury your baby yourself
 - OR**
 - Arrange a private burial or cremation
 - OR**
 - For babies between 12 weeks and 23+6 weeks gestation, your baby can be included in the hospital cremation service. The hospital can also arrange a burial locally. This would be in an unmarked grave.
- If you wish to bury your baby yourself, you are required to contact the Environmental Health Department of your local borough council. This needs to be done as soon as possible.
- If you wish to arrange a private burial or cremation, you should contact a funeral director to help you with the arrangements or contact your faith leader for guidance with arrangements.
- If you would like your baby to be included in the hospital cremation service, you may still take your baby home first if you wish and you will be contacted by the Bereavement Office or Bereavement Support Midwives regarding arrangements.