

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS FOLLOWING PREGNANCY LOSS UNDER 24 WEEKS

We realise how difficult it can be to make decisions at this time. This leaflet outlines the options offered under current hospital policy. After reading it, and discussing it with the Ward staff or chaplain, please tick the appropriate box/es and sign the accompanying consent form.

We appreciate that you may wish a funeral to happen and staff will guide you in making any arrangements. However, as your pregnancy loss occurred before the 24th week, there is no birth or death certificate and there are no legal requirements for burial or cremation to take place.

Private Arrangements

You may want to arrange a private cremation or burial. Private cremation means you will be able to have your baby's ashes. Private burial is required if you intend to erect a headstone as you must own the grave to do so. Hospital staff would not be involved in making the arrangements or funding the cost, but the hospital chaplain will be happy to help you make arrangements, or you can, of course, contact a funeral director yourself.

It is important to explain that if you choose this option but have not arranged it within eight weeks, we will contact you to confirm that arrangements are in progress. If, after a further four weeks, we have still not heard from you, we will arrange cremation at the earliest opportunity.

Hospital Cremation

If you prefer not to organise the funeral yourself, the hospital arranges cremations at Rose Hill Crematorium, Doncaster. Each baby is placed in its own container but will share a casket with other babies. A short service takes place, led by a hospital chaplain. These take place at regular intervals throughout the year. You and your partner are welcome to attend. The ashes are strewn within the children's section of Rose Hill Cemetery, by the pagoda.

If you wish to be informed when the cremation will take place, please make sure you have ticked the box on the form.

Remembering your baby

There are baby memorials in the children's section of the cemetery, where you may leave flowers. If you wish, you may put an entry in one of the Special Memories books which are kept in the hospital chapels at Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Bassetlaw Hospital. We also hold annual Memorial Services in May each year.

Support and advice

A hospital chaplain is available for support and advice, and will bless your baby if you wish. Chaplains can be contacted by the ward staff.

If you need any further information or support, do not hesitate to contact the Bereavement Support Midwife on (01302) 381365. If she is not available, please leave a message on the answer phone and she will contact you as soon as possible.