

Information for parents following a pregnancy loss under 14 weeks gestation



**Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

We are very sorry that you have had an early pregnancy loss. We hope that the following information will support you in making some of the difficult decisions you may face at this time, it will also explain your choices for the cremation or burial of your baby.

We do understand that this is a very difficult and distressing time for you therefore, in addition to this information leaflet ward staff, the Early Pregnancy Loss Nurse and hospital chaplain are available for you to talk to.

Once you have come to a decision regarding a cremation or burial we will ask you to complete and sign a consent form.

When a pregnancy is lost sadly it is not always possible to see a baby as it may have stopped growing at such an early stage. In circumstances like this the pregnancy tissue may need to be sent to our histology laboratory to be examined.

Unfortunately this test will not tell us why you have lost your baby, it is simply to confirm that the tissue you have passed or had removed at the time of surgery is definitely pregnancy tissue.

The tissue is also tested to exclude a rare form of miscarriage called hydatidiform mole (molar pregnancy).

The samples taken for testing are retained as part of your medical records. Any remaining tissue will be available for cremation or burial in line with your wishes.

Unfortunately in some cases there will be no pregnancy tissue remaining following the testing.



What happens next - your options

Once you have read the following information please indicate your choice clearly on the consent form.

Option A

Hospital cremation

At Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we offer a hospital cremation for pregnancy losses under 24 weeks gestation where the baby has shown no signs of life at birth.

The service is held once a month at Rose Hill crematorium in Doncaster. It is a short communal service led by our hospital chaplain and you will have the opportunity to attend if you wish.

Please indicate if you would like to receive an invitation to the service. We will inform you via the contact method you have chosen on the consent form. Please note that the service will not take place any sooner than one month after your loss.

Following the service you will be accompanied to the children's section of the cemetery and will be shown where your baby/babies ashes will be scattered (usually within 24 hours of the service taking place). You can then visit as you wish.

The children's area is also a place you can leave mementoes such as flowers, small teddies, charms (no glass vases/ornaments please). Unfortunately items cannot be left permanently and will be removed by the crematorium staff after four weeks.

It is not possible for individual ashes to be taken away following the hospital cremation. If you wish to receive the ashes, please choose Option B for private arrangements.

Option B

Private arrangements

We understand that you may want to make your own private arrangements for either a cremation or burial. You would be required to make these arrangements yourself or through a Funeral Director. Most Funeral Directors do not charge for arranging a baby funeral. However, there may be costs associated with your baby/babies funeral that may not be covered, such as flowers/transport etc. Please speak with the Early Pregnancy Loss Nurse or your funeral directors to discuss this in further detail.

Please be aware that if investigations have been requested to take place there will be a small delay before your baby can be released. You or the funeral director will be informed when your baby can be collected.

Option C

Undecided

We understand that making a final decision at this time may be very difficult. If you feel that you are unable to currently make a decision, we ask that you please contact the Early Pregnancy Loss Nurse within eight weeks from today if you wish to make private arrangements. If, after this time we have been unable to contact you, we will make arrangements on your behalf for your baby/babies to be included in the communal cremation service at Rose Hill Crematorium, Doncaster.

Option D

Do not wish to be involved

We understand that some people would prefer not to be involved in any of the decision making process. If this is the case please ensure that your choice is clearly indicated on the consent form. Your baby/pregnancy tissue will be included in the hospital cremation service at Rose Hill Crematorium, Doncaster. Please ensure that your option is clearly marked and your form is signed and dated. If it is not fully completed you will be contacted by the Early Pregnancy Loss Nurse at a later date to discuss and choose an option.

In keeping with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) policy we are required to show that you have been provided with information in order to make an informed choice and to gain consent for sensitive disposal by cremation.

Further information

If you change your mind following completion of the consent form or wish to discuss your options further, please contact the Early Pregnancy Loss Nurse as soon as possible on Tel: 01302 642812.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns, complaints or questions you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net