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Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

What happens to my baby now?

**Information for families following the loss of
a baby during pregnancy (before 24 weeks)**



Spiritual &
Pastoral Care

Introduction

We are so very sorry for your loss. We appreciate what a very difficult time this is for you and your family.

This leaflet is designed to give you some information about the options available to you.

We understand just how overwhelming the loss of a baby is and how difficult it can be to have to think about the necessary arrangements.

The Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team are available to support you and to answer any questions you may have as you make decisions. While you are in hospital you can ask the ward staff to contact a chaplain to come and talk to you. Once you are discharged you can contact us (details towards the end of this leaflet).

Hospital chaplains provide spiritual and pastoral care and can provide religious care for those who wish for this.

Hospital arranged shared cremation or burial

The hospital offers either shared cremation or shared burial for all babies below 24 weeks gestation.

The shared cremation service happens monthly. This takes place at Mansfield Crematorium and the ashes are scattered at the baby memorial there. As this is a shared cremation, we are unable to provide ashes to families to keep.

The shared burial service happens quarterly. This takes place at Mansfield Cemetery. As this is a shared grave it is not possible to leave items in remembrance on it. However there is a shared memorial where flowers or small items can be left.

A hospital chaplain provides a short service that families are invited to attend if they wish.

Personal burial

Some families wish to remove their baby and associated tissue for personal burial. Further information about the relevant regulations which you need to consider are provided in the leaflet: 'The return of tissue relating to a pregnancy loss for burial on land which is not a recognised cemetery or churchyard.'

As well as legal matters, there are also emotional and practical questions to consider with personal burial.

If there is to be Histology testing then please be aware that it will be a minimum of 6-8 weeks before release for personal burial is possible.

A member of the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team is available to talk though these implications and support you in your decision making.

Individual funerals

You can choose to contact a funeral director and make your own funeral arrangements.

Alternatively, if you would the hospital to arrange your baby's funeral then a chaplain will plan this with you. We are able to offer this for babies at 12 weeks gestation and over.

This can be either a cremation or burial service and would usually take place at Mansfield Crematorium or Cemetery. The service can be non-religious or religious in content, according to your wishes.

Further information about what is included and the cost of this is provided in our leaflet 'The cost of a hospital arranged (before 24 week) baby funeral'.

How to contact the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team

Please speak to us if you have any questions or if we can be of any further support.

The Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team office hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Outside of these hours please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Telephone: 01623 622515, extension 3047

Email: sfh-tr.spiritualandpastoralcare@nhs.net

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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