

Patient information

Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)

You have been referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU), because you are experiencing bleeding and / or pain in early pregnancy. Your referral means that you have either been given an appointment to attend EPAU for an ultrasound scan or to receive a phone call from an early pregnancy nurse to discuss your symptoms – we aim to call you within 24 hours.

Your healthcare professional was unable to tell from one consultation today what the likely outcome for your pregnancy was and it may take more than one visit to be able to give you a definite diagnosis. Even with the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit you may be required to have repeat blood tests/ultrasound scans.

We appreciate that this is a worrying and anxious time for you and we hope to support you as much as we can during this time.

Bleeding and / or pain can be a sign of a significant complication with a pregnancy, however, nearly 50% of women referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit find that the bleeding / pain will ultimately settle spontaneously and their pregnancy continues without any further problems.

A scan is not always necessary and will be based on clinical need. Our assessment and ultrasound scan sadly cannot prevent a miscarriage and very early scans are often inconclusive.

If you are asked to attend for a scan, please arrive with a comfortably full bladder. An internal scan may be necessary to aid our diagnosis.

The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit is open from Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) between 08.30 and 16.00.

Please contact Ward F14 on 01284 713235 / 01284 713236 or attend the Accident & Emergency department if, in the meantime you develop any of the following:

- **Increased heavy bleeding/passing large clots.**
- **Increased abdominal pain which is particularly worse on the left or right side.**
- **You develop pain in the tip of your shoulder and diarrhoea.**
- **You experience dizziness/light-headedness/collapse.**

Further information and support can be found at:

www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

Thank you for reading this leaflet, should you wish to provide us with feedback on any part of your experience please email EPAUserfeedback@wsh.nhs.uk. Please note this email is NO REPLY and is not checked regularly. Should you have a medical emergency please seek alternative medical advice or attend A&E if required.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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