

Information for parents following a late foetal loss

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

We are sorry this reaches you at such a difficult time.

Your nurse or midwife will be supporting you with spending time with your baby and will answer any questions you have about the next few hours and days.

During your stay in hospital you may find it helpful to talk with the hospital chaplain. The chaplaincy is available for everyone and is not dependent on belonging to any faith group. If you would like a naming and blessing service for your baby, please ask and we will contact the chaplaincy staff for you.

Post mortem

You may be asked whether you wish for a post mortem examination to be carried out. This might give you information about why your baby died, or help assess the risk of the same thing happening in a future pregnancy. Your doctor can advise you if a post mortem is likely to provide the information you need.

You would be asked to sign a form to give your consent to this, and would have choices about the extent of the examination.

The post mortem would take place in a specialist centre in St Michael's Hospital, Bristol. Bereavement support staff would keep in contact with you to let you know when your baby was taken there, and when they returned.

You can read more in the '*Understanding why your baby died*' section of your Sands Bereavement Support Book.

Funeral arrangements

When you feel able to think about funeral arrangements these are the choices you have:

- You can arrange the funeral yourself.
- You can ask a funeral director to do this for you.
- The bereavement support staff can make arrangements through a local funeral director for you. You will be able to decide on the type of funeral (burial or cremation), date and time. There would be no charge for the funeral.

You should be aware that because your baby was so small, we are not able to promise there would be any ashes from your baby following a cremation. However, there are usually some ashes remaining and these can be returned to you, or be buried in the Crematorium Baby Garden of Remembrance.

Your funeral service can be taken by your own minister/faith leader if you have one, the hospital chaplain or a civil celebrant, or you can have a simple committal but no service.

- You can arrange to take your baby for a home burial once you have considered the practical and legal requirements.
- The hospital can arrange a shared cremation service, in which several babies are cremated together in one coffin. There would not be any individual ashes from a shared cremation; the ashes would be buried in the Baby Garden of Remembrance at the Crematorium.

You do not need to go to the registration office to register your baby's birth or death.

After you go home

The bereavement support staff will need to know your wishes regarding your baby's funeral, and will be able to answer any questions. Please phone them as soon as you feel able on **01271 322404**.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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