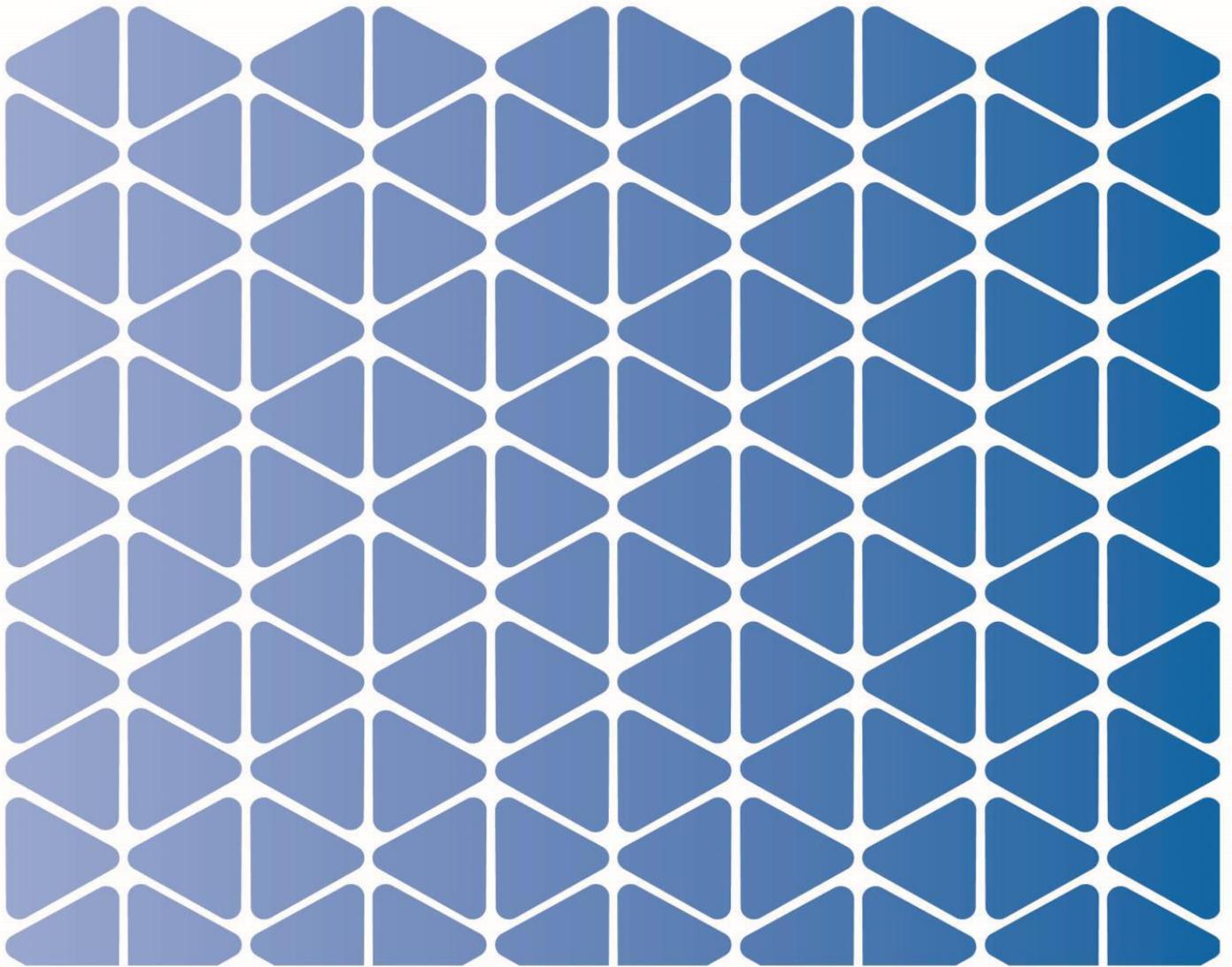




PATIENT INFORMATION

# PREGNANCY OF UNKNOWN LOCATION



## Department of Gynaecology

You have been given a diagnosis of pregnancy of unknown location. This leaflet will explain what this means and what are the possible outcomes following this diagnosis. Please ask for clarification if you do not understand something in the leaflet. You would also be provided with a contact number to get in touch if you experience any problems during your treatment with our unit.

### **What is pregnancy of unknown location mean?**

This term is used when you have a positive pregnancy test but no pregnancy can be seen following a careful internal ultrasound scan.

### **What are the possible reasons for pregnancy of unknown location?**

1. You may have a very early pregnancy and therefore it is not possible to see. It is normal not to be able to see pregnancy of less than 6 weeks. This is also likely to happen when you are un-sure of your dates or have irregular cycles.
2. You may be undergoing a miscarriage. This usually presents with symptoms of pain or bleeding. You would still have a positive pregnancy test as the pregnancy hormone (BHCG) takes 3-4 weeks to clear out from your body.
3. You may have an ectopic pregnancy which is pregnancy located outside the lining of the womb.

### **What is ectopic pregnancy?**

Pregnancy growing outside the lining of the womb is called ectopic pregnancy. Majority of ectopic pregnancy grow in the fallopian tube. It can also implant on the ovary and neck of the womb or rare occasions. Sadly it is not possible for ectopic pregnancy to survive. It is important to identify and treat ectopic pregnancies due to risk of rupture and bleeding. If you are diagnosed with ectopic pregnancy all the treatment options will be discussed with you by the doctors and nurses.

### **What happens after the diagnosis of pregnancy of unknown location?**

We will take detail history from you to help us in explaining the possible reason.

We would need to do some blood test which may also aid in the diagnosis. Hormones are checked 48 hours apart. You would be contacted by the team to explain the results and may require further scans before diagnosis can be made.

## **Outcomes after hormone test**

As a general rule if your hormone levels go up significantly it is likely that you have a normally located pregnancy in your womb and another scan will be arranged based on your hormone levels. We still have to be cautious as some patients may still have an ectopic pregnancy.

- If there is a sudden drop in your hormone levels especially if you also have history of pain and bleeding likely diagnosis of miscarriage is made and we advise you to do a home pregnancy test in 3-4 weeks.
- If the hormone levels do not fall or rise significantly a possibility of ectopic pregnancy is made and you would be seen by the medical team.
- Sometimes you may need more than 2 blood tests and repeat ultrasound scans before a diagnosis is made.
- We would advise you to monitor your symptoms and get in touch if you notice significant pain in your lower abdomen, feeling light headed, tummy upset, shoulder tip pain or experience heavy vaginal bleeding. Please contact these numbers.

EPAU and GAU Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: 01905761489

If you feel very unwell or the symptoms are severe call an ambulance and present in the nearest A & E department.

Helpful websites and associations where further information can be found

Ectopic pregnancy Trust

020 77332653

[www.ectopicpregnancy.org.uk](http://www.ectopicpregnancy.org.uk)

Miscarriage Association

01924 200799

[www.miscarriageassociation.org](http://www.miscarriageassociation.org)

**If your symptoms or condition worsens, or if you are concerned about anything, please call your GP, 111, or 999.**

### **Patient Experience**

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

### **Feedback**

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

### **How to contact PALS:**

**Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: [wah-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:wah-tr.PET@nhs.net)**

### **Opening times:**

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 4.30pm and Friday: 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that a voicemail service is in use at busy times, but messages will be returned as quickly as possible.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.