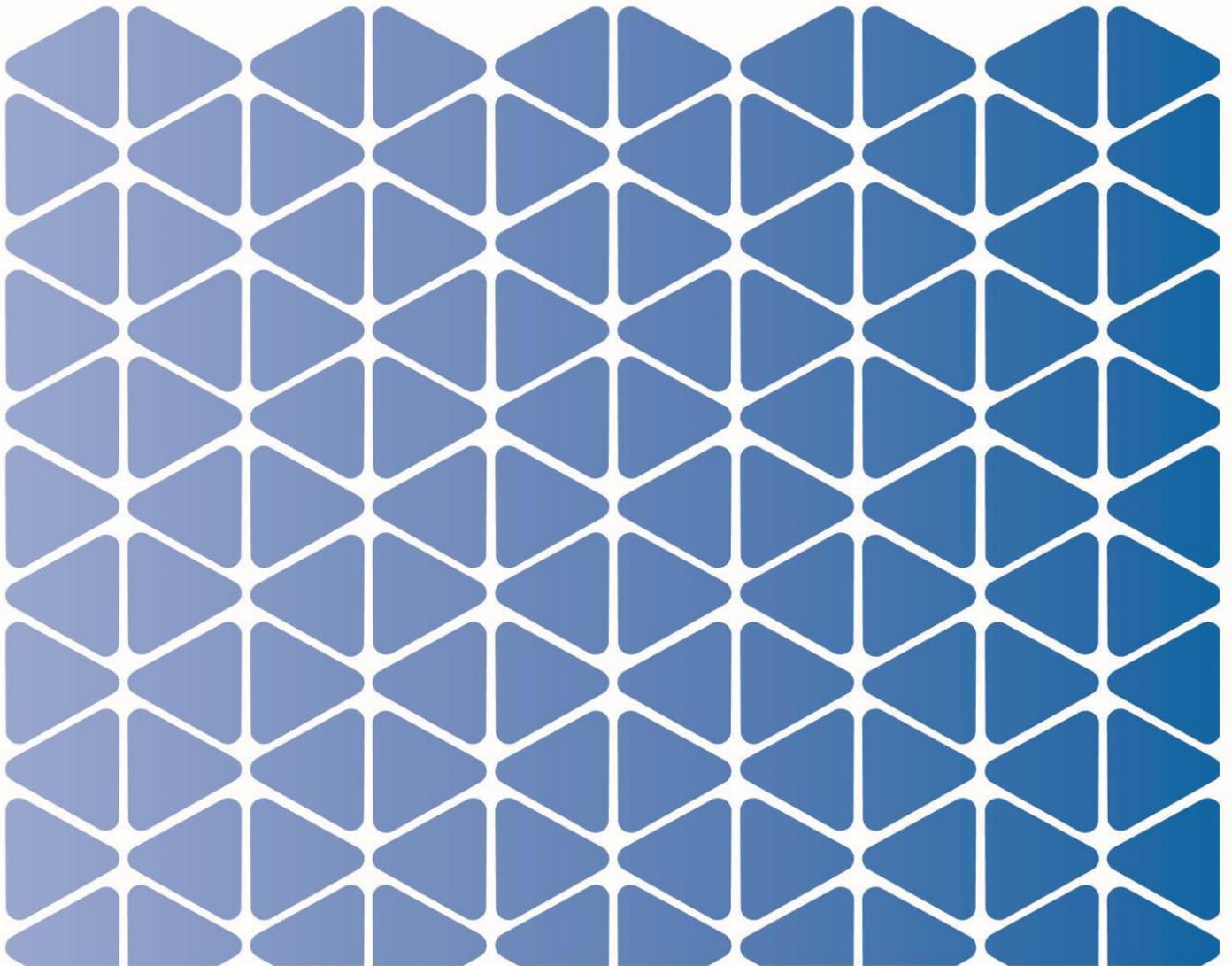




Worcestershire
Acute Hospitals
NHS Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

ENDOMETRIAL BIOPSY



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What is an Endometrial Biopsy?

An endometrial biopsy is when a small sample of tissue is taken from the lining of the womb (the endometrium). This sample is sent to the laboratory to be examined under the microscope.

Why might an Endometrial Biopsy be required?

An endometrial biopsy is performed to check the lining of the womb. This is usually done because you have reported some abnormal bleeding, such as bleeding in between your periods or after the menopause.

The tissue from the endometrial biopsy is examined to see if there are any signs of cancer of the lining of the womb (endometrial cancer) or thickening of the lining of the womb (endometrial hyperplasia). Only a small minority of women who report abnormal bleeding will have anything significantly wrong.

An endometrial biopsy is also sometimes done in women who are having investigations and treatment for subfertility

How is an Endometrial Biopsy performed?

An endometrial biopsy is a simple procedure that can be performed in the outpatient clinic. This entails:

- Passing a speculum into the vagina (similar to a smear test).
- A small sterile tube like a fine straw is then passed into the womb.
- A sample will be taken and sent off for analysis.
- The biopsy itself will take less than a minute but the whole procedure may take up to 10 minutes.
- If the biopsy is unsuccessful the doctor will discuss the possibility of further investigations with you.

The procedure is not very painful but some women can find it uncomfortable. You may experience some mild cramping abdominal pain. Simple pain killers (such as paracetamol and ibuprofen) can help with this.

An endometrial biopsy could also be taken during the outpatient hysteroscopy if this is suggested by the gynaecologist

What are the risks of an Endometrial Biopsy?

Having an endometrial biopsy is generally very safe and you are unlikely to have any complications. The rare risks are:

- The sterile tube making a small hole in your womb (uterine perforation)
- Heavy vaginal bleeding
- Infection in your womb

When can I go home?

You will be able to go home straight away after the procedure.

What happens next?

After the biopsy has been taken this will be sent off to the laboratory for analysis. We will write to you within 3-4 weeks with the results and any further investigations or appointments that are needed.

Who should I contact if I have any problems?

You should seek medical advice if you have any of the following:

- Severe abdominal pain
- Heavy vaginal bleeding
- A high temperature
- Offensive, smelly vaginal discharge

EGAU (Emergency Gynaecology Assessment Unit) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have any concerns after your treatment you can ring EGAU to speak to one of the gynaecology nurses for advice on 01905761482. You can also speak to your GP.

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

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.