

Information for women with failing pregnancy of unknown location that need monitoring (urine pregnancy test or blood test)

Your ultrasound scan does not show a pregnancy within your womb and your pregnancy hormone levels are falling. It is most likely that you have had a miscarriage and that no further intervention will be needed but there is a small risk of ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the womb) in 1 out of 20 cases.

A ruptured ectopic pregnancy causes internal bleeding and can be a potentially life threatening emergency that would require surgery.

As part of your ongoing care and management, we therefore need to follow you up on the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) until your body's pregnancy hormone level has fallen to a safe limit. This monitoring would include either a blood test or urine pregnancy test.

We monitor you to ensure that the pregnancy has completely ended. There is a possibility of ectopic pregnancy if the pregnancy hormone level doesn't fall. In such a case you will need further investigation (ultrasound scan) and treatment.

We appreciate that it is a very difficult time for you.

If you have any questions about your ongoing management, the doctors and nurses in the EPAU will be more than happy to answer your questions. The EPAU contact number is 01603 286252.

Your next EPAU appointment for a consultation and a pregnancy hormone check is: -

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