How can I help to reduce Healthcare Associated Infections?
Infection control is important to the wellbeing of our patients, and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the main entrance of the hospital and at the entrance to every clinical area before coming into and after leaving the clinical area or hospital. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

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You have been given an appointment to attend the Early Pregnancy Unit. *This is normally because you had bleeding or pain in early pregnancy* or because you have had complications in the past.

**What will happen at the appointment?**
When you arrive, please complete the form given to you at the Reception desk. Please check your personal details and add any relevant medical information. Please ask if you need help filling in the form.

The clinic has timed appointments. Sometimes emergency patients need to be seen and you may have to wait a little longer for your scan. We will let you know how long you will need to wait.

A urine sample may sometimes be needed to check a pregnancy test or to see whether you have a urine infection. You will then have a scan performed by either a sonographer or a consultant gynaecologist.

**Do I need a full bladder?**
No. Please have an empty bladder because in the majority of cases the scan will be performed transvaginally (internally).

**Why do I need an internal scan?**
In the first few weeks of pregnancy, the uterus (womb) is still within the pelvis and it is easier to see a pregnancy by an internal scan. The ultrasound probe is inserted into the vagina.

After 9 weeks of pregnancy you will usually have a transabdominal scan (the probe is placed on the skin of the lower tummy (abdomen)).

Both ways of scanning are safe and will not make you miscarry. You may need another scan 7-14 days later.

**Do I have to have an internal scan?**
If you do not want to have the internal scan, we can still do an external scan, but it will not provide as much information. You can talk to the sonographer about your choices.

The Early Pregnancy nurse will talk to you about what the scan has shown and the next steps in your care.

**Blood tests**
You may need to have blood tests to check hormone levels and possibly your blood group.

At all times we will talk to you about the findings of the scans and any blood tests that you may have had.

**Patient experience survey**
If you are happy to give us comments on your visit to the clinic, please write your e-mail address on the form at the Reception Desk so that we can contact you. If you do not wish to be contacted, that is fine too, it will not affect your care in any way. Anything you write will be completely anonymous and help us to improve our service.

**Contact numbers:**
If you want to ask any further questions please telephone:

*Early Pregnancy Unit (Monday-Friday)*

**Wycombe Hospital** 01494 425553 (08.00-13.00)

**Stoke Mandeville Hospital** 01296 316469/316143 (08.00-17.00)

**Ward 15** 01296 316500/316365 (at all other times)

**Please Note:**
If you have any side-effects or want to ask anything else about your treatment please contact the Early Pregnancy Unit on the above numbers.