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 rub (special gel) available at the main entrance of the hospital and at the entrance to every ward before coming into and after leaving the ward or hospital. In some situations hands may need to be washed at a sink using soap and water rather than using the hand rub. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
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Positive pregnancy test with scan showing empty uterus

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation of this leaflet please call the Early Pregnancy Unit or Surgical Assessment Unit (see page 3)
Why did the scan show an empty uterus?

In early pregnancy some women might experience some bleeding and a scan may not show exactly what is happening for a few reasons:

• It is simply too early to see the pregnancy; or
• The pregnancy is not growing as it should; this is possibly the reason why you started bleeding and could go on to miscarry; or
• There is a possibility of an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside the womb) and this occurs in approximately 10-15 women out of 100.

How are we going to find out what is happening with your pregnancy?

To help us find out what is happening we need to check the pregnancy hormone level (BhCG) and the progesterone level in your blood. BhCG levels roughly double every two days in a normal growing early pregnancy.

Depending on the results, we might repeat the BhCG blood tests after 48 hours or one week. We may need to perform another ultrasound scan in a few days.

• In 3 out of 10 patients a healthy pregnancy is diagnosed on ultrasound.
• In 5-7 out of 10 women the cause of the scan showing an empty uterus may be an early miscarriage and the pregnancy hormone will become negative in 2-3 weeks time.
• In 1 out of 10 patients an ectopic pregnancy is found (the pregnancy is not in the right place, it may be in the fellopian tube, rather than inside the womb).

What are the symptoms I need to look for?

Bleeding can be very common and as long as it is not too heavy (for example heavier than a period) you can stay at home.

If you develop any type of abdominal pain or are aware of an increasing, possibly cramp discomfort, you may take paracetamol tablets.

However, if the pain is sharp, specific to one side, you experience pain in the tip of your shoulder or you are feeling faint and are worried, please do not hesitate to phone or attend A&E at Stoke Mandeville Hospital as an ectopic pregnancy could be the cause.

Useful Contact Numbers

Wycombe Hospital
Early Pregnancy Unit
Clinic 8.00am - 1.00 pm  Monday - Friday
01494 425553

Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Early Pregnancy Unit
Clinic 8.00am - 5.00 pm  Monday - Friday
Reception 01296 316162/4
Early Pregnancy Unit 01296 316469
Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) 01296 316500
Ward 16B 01296 418111/8110
Out of hours
Ward 15 01296 416500

Further help
The Miscarriage Association
c/o Clayton Hospital, Northgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 3JS
Tel: (Helpline) 01924 200799
Web: www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

Early Pregnancy Support Group
First Tuesday of the month 7 - 8.30pm
Claydon Wing Annex at Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Just come along or contact Rebecca on 01296 316469

Please Note:
This leaflet explains some of the most common side-effects that some women may experience. However, it is not comprehensive. If you experience other side-effects and want to ask anything else related to your treatment please speak to the EPU clinic or the Surgical Assessment Unit.