We continually strive to improve the quality of information given to patients. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this information booklet, please contact the Division of Women, Children & Sexual Health Services, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 8AL

Approvals:
Divisional Board/SDU: V2 Dec 2010, V3 Feb 2016, V4 May 2019
Clinical Guidelines Subgroup: not required
MSLC/BMV: July 2011, V3 Lay Reps Sep 2015

How can I help to reduce healthcare associated infections?
Infection control is important to the well-being 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 entrance to every ward before coming into and after leaving the ward. 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.

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

Patient information leaflet
If you want this leaflet in another language please call the Early Pregnancy Unit or Surgical Assessment Unit (see page 3)
Why did the scan show an empty womb?
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 outside the womb, it may be in the fallopian tube).

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 have increasing, possibly cramp discomfort, you may take paracetamol tablets.

However, if the pain is sharp and specific to one side; if you have pain in the tip of your shoulder; if you feel faint; or the vaginal bleeding is getting worse, please phone the Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) or attend A&E at Stoke Mandeville Hospital as an ectopic pregnancy could be the cause.

Useful Contact Numbers

**Wycombe Hospital**
Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU)
Clinic  8.00am—1.00pm  Monday—Friday  01494 425553

**Stoke Mandeville Hospital**
Early Pregnancy Unit
Clinic 8.00am—5.00pm  Monday—Friday  01296 316264
Reception 01296 316469
Early Pregnancy Unit 01296 316500
Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) 01296 418111/8110
Ward 16B
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 call 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.