

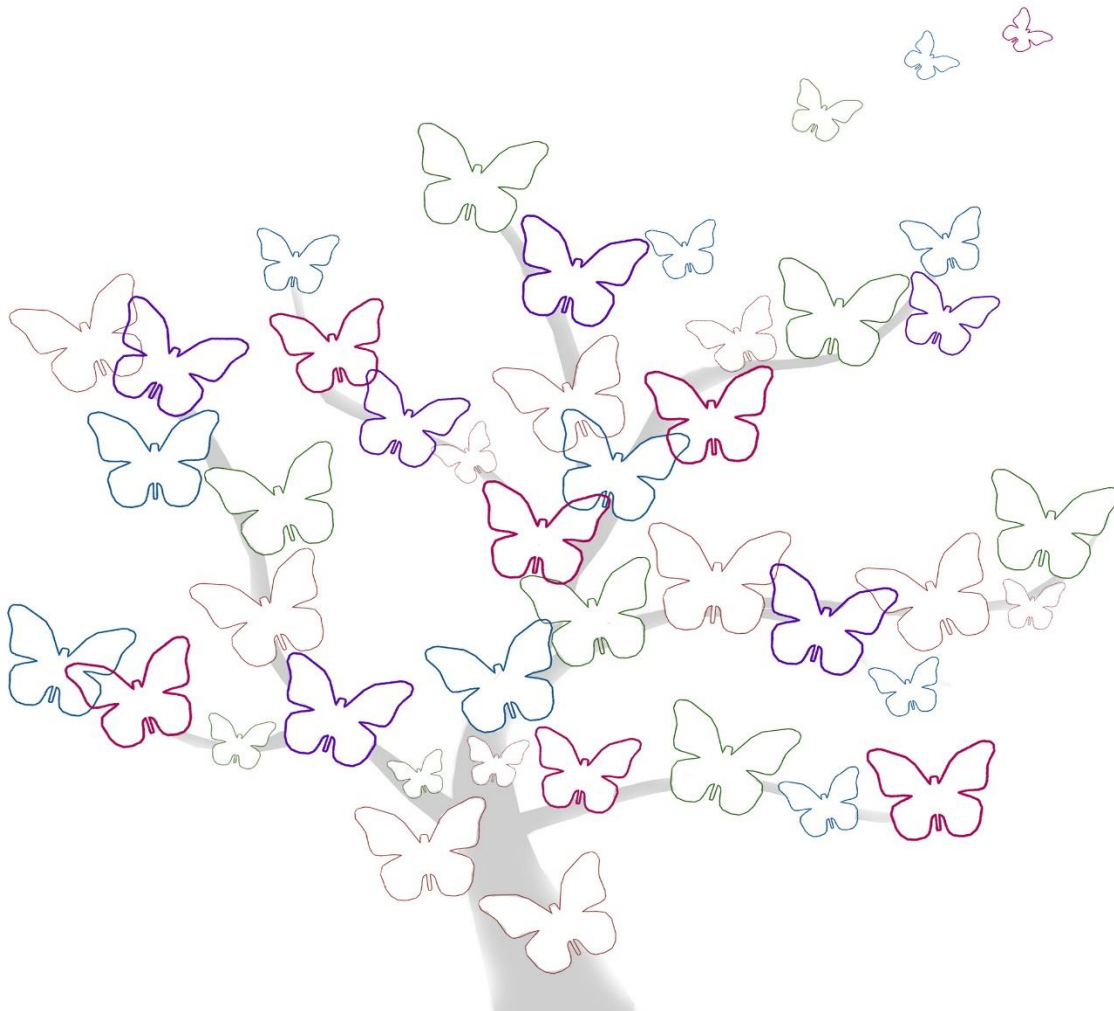
Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Division:	Surgery, Women & Children's	Date Approved:	12 March 2024
Department:	Maternity	Next Review Date:	April 2027
Dep. Contact Details:	01793 604575	Document Number:	SW&C - PIL0354

This leaflet makes recommendations for women and people who are pregnant or that have recently given birth. For simplicity of language, the leaflet uses the term women throughout, but this should be taken to also include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant or have recently birthed.

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net. Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation. Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Please Tell us About You

My name is / I like to be called _____

My preferred/first language is _____

My Partner's name is _____

About our Baby - _____

Please add any other information which will help us to care for you.

This might include your birth preferences.

GWH Number _____

NHS Number _____

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.



The Bereavement Team would like to express our most sincere condolences to you and your family at this sad time.

Alongside coping with bereavement, there are also a range of decisions and arrangements that need to be made, this booklet has been produced as practical guide to help you with these arrangements, it also contains details of a range of sources of help and support.

The arrangements that need to be made can feel overwhelming, we are here to help, please do not be afraid to ask if there is anything you are unsure of, we will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Your Plan of Care

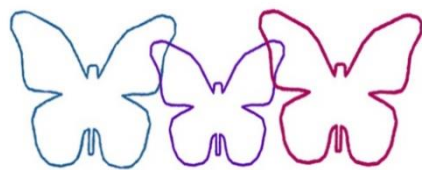
Please arrive at _____ (place)

On _____ (date)

At _____ (time)

If you have any questions or worries before this time please call _____

Any other information you need.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Your Plan of Care

How is the death of your baby before labour confirmed?

The death of a baby in the womb is confirmed by an ultrasound scan. The scan is able to show if your baby's heart has stopped beating. If you wish, you can ask for another scan to reconfirm your baby's death. Sometimes, after it has been confirmed that your baby has died, you may still feel as if your baby is moving. This is caused by the shifting movements of your baby within the fluid in your womb and can be very distressing. Your midwife will be able to talk to you about this.

What are my choices for birth?

Your doctor will discuss with you and your partner the different options of when and how to have your baby. The advice will depend on your general health, your pregnancy and any previous birth experiences and also your personal wishes. You will be given additional support by the staff looking after you, who know that giving birth is going to be a distressing experience for you and your family.

You and your partner may wish to see and/or hold your baby immediately after birth. You may like to wait to see your baby until a little later after birth. You may decide not to see your baby at all.

A member of the team will talk to you and your partner about the **funeral choices** for your baby, and about registering the birth if your baby was born at or after 24 completed weeks of pregnancy. Your religious and cultural considerations will be taken into account.

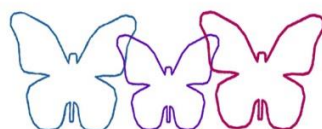
What tests or investigations will I be offered?

If we do not know why your baby has died, you will be offered tests for you and your baby that may help to find out why your baby has died. A cause is found in about 50% of cases and this can help with planning your care in a future pregnancy.

Unfortunately, despite tests, sometimes deaths cannot be explained.

The information on this page has been taken from the RCOG 'Information for You, When Your Baby dies before birth'

The full leaflet can be accessed via [www.http://rcog.org.uk/for-the-public](http://rcog.org.uk/for-the-public)



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Preparing to Come into Hospital and What to Expect

At this time it can be hard to take in all the information given to you and therefore it is often helpful to have it in writing as well.

Please feel free to ask us any questions you have.

Your care and the advice given to you at this time will be tailored to your individual needs and concerns. This will include an individualized medical assessment.

You may choose to go home, or you may decide to stay with us in hospital until after the birth. Please be reassured that **you will be cared for in your own room**. Where possible we will invite you to use our Forget-Me-Not Suite*. This is a suite of rooms with your own bathroom sitting room and kitchenette.

You and your partner can stay there will minimal disturbance.

The room offers a double bed option so you and your partner can both stay comfortably.

If you want to bring in some preferred food items, there is a fridge.

We will offer you all your meals and refreshments,

but you may feel more comfortable with your own choices.



We would suggest you **bring in your own toiletries, changes of clothes for you and your partner** as well as something comfortable to labour in (if this is your plan). Think about bringing your phone charger and any other items you might need.

If you or your partner take **regular medication**, please bring these in too.

Don't forget your Orange Book/ Maternity Notes if you have them.



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Preparing to Come into Hospital and What to Expect

Please feel free to ask us any questions you have.

You might want to think about **bringing in some special items for your baby**. This is a very individual choice. We have a selection of clothes or blankets for babies from which you can choose, however we will also accommodate your wishes and anything you bring for your baby, will stay with them permanently unless you make any changes. Some parents bring a teddy or soft toy, a blanket, a photograph of themselves or a letter they have written to their baby.

We will always do everything we can to respect any **religious or cultural beliefs or wishes** around bereavement. Please do ask and we will do everything we can to accommodate your needs.

You will be welcome to stay in your private room until you are ready to leave. Some parents choose to stay for a day or more; other choose to leave sooner. If you are medically well, the decision is yours.

We will **offer to keep your baby with you by using a cooling mattress or cot**. This enables you to have **time to make memories**. We would encourage you to take lots of photographs; to hold your baby and we will support you to wash and dress your baby if you wish. Where possible** we will offer to make casts of your baby's hands and feet. We will also offer hand and footprints of your baby.

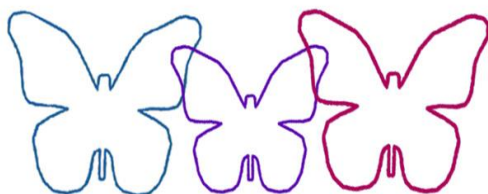
We will also offer you a **memory box** so that you can have somewhere special to store some of these precious items.

You can have **family members or friends come and visit** if you would like. Our usual visiting restrictions do not apply in these circumstances.

Our Forget-Me-Not room has been made more comfortable with the kind and ongoing support of Swindon Sands.

*If the Forget-Me-Not room is not available, we will make every effort to make you as comfortable as possible in an alternative private room.

**Please notes this is not always possible



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Labour and Birth.

Please be assured your care will be individualised to your needs and fully discussed with you at every step. You will be able to discuss your plan of care with a senior Obstetrician.

If your baby has died and there's no immediate risk to your health, you will be given time to think about what you want to do next, it may be possible for you to go home for a couple of days to decide what you want to do. If there are complications that might put your health at risk, your baby may need to be delivered as soon as possible.

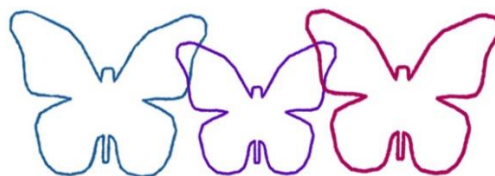
It is usually recommended that you give birth to your baby vaginally as this is often safer for you. It is less common for a stillborn baby to be delivered by Caesarean section. You may be able to choose whether you would like your labour to begin naturally or if you want it to be started (induced).

Induction is where labour is started by medication, the process of medication differs depending on how many weeks pregnant you are or if you have had any surgery on your uterus. Sometimes getting labour started can take some time, please ask if you are unsure what may happen or if you have any concerns.

You will be offered pain relief options to suit your needs and be supported throughout the process. You will have the opportunity to discuss pain relief options with the midwife caring for you and with an anaesthetist.

Labour is different for everyone, for some it will be quick, while others will find the pain difficult to manage and it may feel like it's taking a long time. It will be difficult to predict how your body will react, but the staff will guide you through the process and answer your questions. Every effort will be made to make your hospital stay as comfortable as possible.

You will be cared for in an individual room with en-suite facilities your birth partner will be able to stay with you at all times.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

My Birth preferences

I have received a copy of *Bereavement support following the death of your baby*.
I have received a copy of *Sands Bereavement Support book*.

These documents provide useful information to help you consider the birth.

You can change your mind at any time, this is simply to help guide your thoughts and assist the staff caring for you.

My Name (I like to be called).....

My Birthing Partners' Name/s.....

My baby's Name.....

I have not yet given my baby a name.

Labour Care

I would like my birthing partner/s to remain with me including overnight.

I would like to use the following relaxation techniques:

Dim lighting

Massage

Breathing/ Mantras

Mobilizing

Warm Bath

Aromatherapy

Other.....

.....

I wish to/ or may wish to use the following methods of pain relief (please ask for more information about options available)

.....

.....

I prefer to choose at the time and be guided by the midwife

I am happy that a student midwife works

The Birth

I am happy with my choice of vaginal birth.

I need more information and request to speak with the obstetric team again.

Personal items for labour

Comfortable clothing and a change of clothes. Your partner also may want to bring a change of clothes.

I would prefer you can wear a hospital gown to labour in.

Wash bag, toothbrush, toothpaste.

You may bring your own pillow.

You can add to this list here with any other personal items you wish to bring

.....

.....

Partners often get hungry – you can bring in your own food, snacks if you wish.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Following the birth of my baby.

I would like to see or hold my baby at the time of birth.

or

I am unsure and wish to wait and decide at the time.

I wish to spend time with my baby_(You will be given opportunities to change your mind at any time, this can be as short or a long a time as you wish.)

or

I prefer that my baby is initially placed in another room nearby. (You will be given opportunities to change your mind at any time)

I have clothes/ a blanket/ or soft toy for my baby.

or

I would like the hospital to provide some or all these items.

I would like to see the hospital chaplain and arrange a blessing for my baby.

I would like another faith leader to visit.

A doctor will speak with you about medical tests (such as postmortem or testing of the placenta). Information is available in the *Sands Bereavement Support Book – Understanding why your baby died*.

A midwife will discuss funeral options and ask you to sign a form to indicate your preference.

See Further information is available in "*Bereavement support following the death of your baby*". Please also speak to your midwife, or one of the Bereavement team.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Making Memories

We know that your short time together with your baby will be precious. We would encourage and support you in making as many memories as you can.

Here are some examples of things you might consider. Please ask if there is anything else that you would like, we will always try to accommodate your wishes.

Photographs

The hospital has a professional photographer. If they are on duty they will come and take photographs for you and with you if you would like. We would also encourage you to take as many photographs as you can on your own phones or cameras. If our professional photographer is not available, we can offer the services of a Charity "Remember my Baby".

Bathing and dressing baby

Our midwives will support you to wash and dress your baby if you would wish to do this. You may have chosen some clothes for baby from home, or you can select from items which we have here.

Cuddles and time together

Our unit has been kindly donated a cuddle cot and an 'Abi cot' which means that you can have your baby with you in the room for as long as you would like. The baby can be placed on these cooling mattresses between cuddles as this will help to maintain the baby's appearance which otherwise may change with time. This means you and your baby do not need to be separated until you are ready to go.

Taking baby for a walk around the lake

If this is something you would like to do, we can provide a pram and a midwife will make any necessary arrangements.

Hand and Foot Prints

Maternity staff will help to create these with you.

These images need to be stored away from light. If you want to

display them at home, we would recommend taking a photograph

of the image and framing that. The original images can also be

used to create 3D jewellery such as a silver pendant with the impression of the hands or feet.

Taking Baby Home

Please ask your midwife if you would like to take your baby home. We can help support you with this.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Memory Making



Hand and Foot Casts

Where possible we will offer to make casts of a hand or foot from your baby—we may be able to try to get both. This will depend on the age and size of your baby and the condition of the baby's skin which can sometimes be too delicate.

'Heart in their Hands'

We will offer you a 'Heart in their hands' keyring. We also have special hearts that can be given by older siblings if you have any older children who might want to find a way to say goodbye to their baby brother or sister. Please ask the midwife looking after you.

Lock of hair

If your baby has some hair, you may want to keep a little.

Time with Family

Normal visiting restrictions do not apply within our Forget me not Bereavement suite. Please invite close family or friends to see you and if you wish they can see and spend time with your baby. If you would like to see friends or family but would not like them to see the baby, the staff can facilitate this for you also.

Naming

Most families choose to name their baby. Some families find this helps them to recognise the importance of the life lost. If you would rather not name your baby, we will support your choices. Your baby will have your name and be known as 'Baby boy of', or 'baby girl of' (your name).

Baby's siblings and other family members

Often it can be hard to find the right words when you want to speak to children about death and loss. Each family will have its own way, but those who have many years of experience working with bereaved families tell us that often clear language is the best to use. We recommend the support offered through Child Bereavement UK and the website has information for parents about talking to children of different age groups.

Many families choose to have older siblings visit while in hospital.

Reading or sharing a book together

Our Bereavement suite has a small library of books donated by Sands. Reading a story, singing a lullaby or talking to your baby can be comforting. You may choose to involve older children with this also.



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Funeral Options

There is no rush to decide about the funeral. Our Bereavement Services team at the Great Western Hospital will contact you to discuss your choices. They usually call you within two weeks. You are welcome to contact them sooner should you wish to do so.

The main choices that need to be made are:

- A Burial.
- A Cremation.
- Make your own funeral arrangements.
- For the hospital to make the arrangements for you.



If you decide that you would like to make your own arrangements for the funeral:

This may feel like a daunting prospect, however in reality is a straightforward process, funeral directors are very skilled in supporting families at such a difficult time. Many families prefer to arrange the funeral themselves as it gives them more options and choices.

Once you have registered the birth, (if applicable) you will need to make an appointment to meet with a Funeral Director of your choice, they will discuss funeral arrangements with you.

Most Funeral Directors undertake basic funerals for babies and children at no cost. Please discuss this with your chosen funeral director.

If you decide that you would like the hospital to arrange the funeral:

The Bereavement team will be talk you through your options, answer any questions you might have and make the necessary arrangements for you. The Great Western Hospital use the funeral directors AE Smiths.

Hospital funerals take place at Kingsdown Crematorium.

You can choose either a burial or a cremation.

The funeral will be officiated by one of our Chaplaincy team.

Burials:

There is designated area of the cemetery where baby burials take place.

Each baby is buried in their own individual plot.

Gravestones are permitted in line with Kingsdown Crematorium policy.

Cremations:

Cremations take place individually.

In the vast majority of cases there will be ashes, you will be given the choice of what you would like to happen to the ashes.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Introduction to the Bereavement Support Team

The Perinatal Support team:

A small team of Midwives and Nurses who have specialist training in perinatal bereavement care. You will be given the contact details of a member of this team before you leave hospital.

Name: _____

Contact phone number: 01793 605133 (not 24hrs)

Contact Email: gwh.perinataalsupport@nhs.net

Date and time of appointment: _____

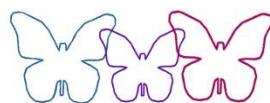
Home visit/ phone call.



Hospital Mortuary and Bereavement Services:

This team will take care of your baby whilst they are in our mortuary. The bereavement services team also coordinate hospital funerals and transport of babies if a postmortem is required.

Contact Number: 01793 604392 (10am– 4pm, weekdays)



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Registering the Birth and Death

The team looking after you will ensure you are clear what action you need to take.

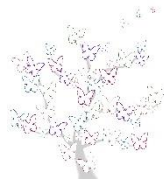
The legal requirements to register a birth, vary depending on the age of the baby when they died.

If your baby is under 24 completed weeks gestation and stillborn, the birth does not need to be registered. You can make the funeral arrangements as soon as you are ready to do so – please follow the guidance below.

If your baby is stillborn after 24 completed weeks gestation, they will need to be registered with the Registrar of Births and Deaths within 42 days of their birth.

The midwife looking after you will issue a Medical certificate of Stillbirth. The hospital will send this certificate to Swindon Register Office.

The Registry office will contact you to make an appointment to go to register your baby has been stillborn. You will then be issued with the relevant certificates.



If your baby died after they were born, the birth and death must be registered within 5 days.

The Doctor looking after you will issue a Medical Certificate of Death. The hospital will send this certificate to Swindon Register Office.

The Registry office will contact you to make an appointment to go to register your baby's birth and death. You will then be issued with the relevant certificates.

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Organisations that Might be Helpful

Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS)

SANDS is an organization which can offer you support when your baby dies during pregnancy or after birth. Their website has a wide range of helpful information. The telephone helpline is free to call from landlines and mobiles on 0808 164 3332 The team is available to speak to from 9.30am to 5.30pm



Monday to Friday and some evenings.

The Sands App is available to download, the website is 222.sands.org.uk

The helpline team can also be contacted at helpline@sands.org.uk

SANDS Swindon Branch

The local Swindon branch of SANDS also organises a support group that meets regularly; please contact them for details. Helpline: Swindon: 07519 832642 Devises: 07933 396992 Email: support@swindonsands.org Website: www.swindonsands.org

Twins Trust Bereavement Services

Offering support all parents and carers who bereaved from a multiple birth whether it was during pregnancy, at birth or afterwards. Contact via website: <https://www.twintrust.org>

The Lullaby Trust.

Support for those affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or toddler. Helpline: 0808 802 6868 email: support@lullabytrust.org.uk Website: www.lullabytrust.org.uk



Miscarriage Association

If you have been affected by miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or molar pregnancy, you will find here the information and support that you need to help you through. The website has a wide range of free printable information leaflets, some of which are available in different languages. Helpline: 01924 200799 Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Email: info@miscarriageassociation.org.uk. Website: www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

Antenatal Results and Choices (A.R.C)

ARC is the only national charity which provides non-directive support and information to expectant and bereaved parents throughout and after the antenatal screening and testing process Helpline: 0845 077 2290 0207 713 7486 (From mobile) Website: www.arc-uk.org



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Organisations that Might be Helpful



Child Bereavement UK.

Child Bereavement UK believes that all families should have access to the support and information they need when a child grieves or when a child dies. Through understanding their grieving process and receiving help in dealing with bereavement from appropriately trained professionals, families can learn to live with their grief and begin rebuilding their lives. This website has wide range of helpful information; particularly about how children deal with bereavement and talking to children about death and dying. Childbereavement UK have designed a child-friendly App which can be downloaded.

Helpline: 0800 02 888 40 email: suport@childbereavementuk.org

www.childbereavement.org.uk

Remember my Baby

Professional Photography service for families bereaved through pregnancy loss.

0800 189 2345

The Muslim Bereavement Support Service, MBSS

The Muslim Bereavement Support Service (MBSS) is a registered charity offering free and confidential faith-aligned bereavement support on a national basis, to women who have lost children at any stage. www.mbss.org.uk

Tommy's

Tommy's is a national charity focused on researching the causes and prevention of pregnancy complications, including miscarriage, stillbirth, and premature birth. They offer information and support to individuals throughout their pregnancy journey and they advocate for improvements in care to ensure safer pregnancies and births for everyone. www.tommys.org.

Tommy's



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Your Postnatal Care

On your first day at home you can expect contact from a community midwife, if you have not received a visit by 4:00pm please call 01793 604020 Maternity bleep holder. After your initial home visit your midwife will plan your ongoing care and any further visits.

If you experience any of the following, please contact your midwife or GP immediately:

- Sudden and heavy blood loss or persistent increasing blood loss.
- Fever, shivering, abdominal pain and /or offensive vaginal loss.
- Calf pain, redness or swelling. Shortness of breath and/or Chest pain.
- Headaches accompanied by one or more of the following symptoms within the first 72 hours following birth:
 - Nausea/vomiting.
 - Visual disturbance.

Reducing the risk of infection:

It is important that you have good personal hygiene; washing your hands properly **before** and **after** visiting the toilet or changing your sanitary pad. Also take care to wash your hands after sneezing or blowing your nose.

Vaginal Blood loss (Lochia):

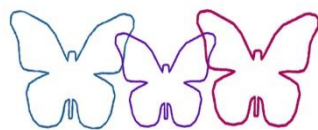
Expect your blood loss to be quite heavy for the first 2-3 days, requiring several changes of sanitary pads a day; it will then become less. If you are concerned about sudden, heavy blood loss or your bleeding becomes offensive, smelly or you pass any large clots, it is important to contact a midwife or GP for advice

Passing urine:

If you have any stinging or burning when you pass urine, need to pass urine frequently, are unable to pass urine or feel you are not completely emptying your bladder, please discuss this with a midwife or GP.

Haemorrhoids (piles) and Constipation:

If you are experiencing discomfort, please discuss this with a midwife or GP. Constipation and piles are common. Piles can be treated with good personal hygiene, haemorrhoid cream (available from the chemist), laxatives and pain relief. A high fiber diet including fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking plenty of fluids can help to prevent constipation. Some women find it more comfortable to hold a clean sanitary towel over their perineum when opening their bowels.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Perineum (the area between your vagina and anus):

Regardless of whether you had any stitches, you may experience some perineal discomfort. Bathe or shower the area regularly, without soap and change your sanitary pad regularly. Rest on your side and use a cold compress for pain and take pain relief if needed. Pelvic floor exercises will aid healing. Stitches take about two weeks to dissolve. Let your midwife or GP know if your stitches are painful or not improving, or if you have any worries.

If you have had a third or fourth degree tear you may be contacted by the hospital with a follow up appointment.

After Pains:

These feel like strong period pains; they are quite common and usually last 2-3 days. Regular pain relief will help; a midwife can advise you on what to take. **However** if the pain persists or becomes constant and your tummy feels tender, contact a midwife or GP the same day.

Breasts:

Following giving birth women's breasts will naturally produce milk. Some women find this quite distressing, as it is a reminder that you do not have a baby to feed. The production of milk usually lasts 2-3 days and may be uncomfortable. Regular pain relief will help; wear a supportive non under-wired bra, and sleep with it on. To ease very full uncomfortable breasts you can express off a small amount of milk, this is generally best done by hand expressing, please ask your midwife for advice about hand expressing. You may find you leak some milk for several weeks, this is normal; wearing breast pads will help. You can continue to eat and drink as normal; don't reduce your fluid intake.

If you would like to talk about expressing and donating your breast milk, please ask and you will be able to talk to one of our infant feeding specialists about this.

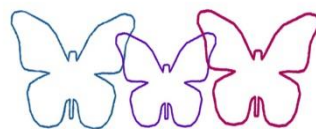
Sleep:

You may find it difficult to sleep despite the fact that you feel exhausted. This is quite a common experience for many bereaved parents following the death of their baby; speak to your midwife or GP for advice.

Six-week post-natal check with GP:

It is important that you have a postnatal check up with your GP, this is usually done about six weeks after giving birth.

Your GP may contact you regarding your six-week post-natal check; if you do not automatically receive an appointment, please contact your GPs surgery and arrange an appointment



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Follow up appointment.

Willow Clinic

You will receive a letter in the post offering you an appointment at the hospital in Willow clinic; here you will meet an Obstetrician. This appointment will be in around 12 weeks' time; at this point any pending test results and if applicable Post-Mortem results will be available to be discussed.

There may be questions you would like to ask; it can be helpful to write these down as it is easy to forget them.

You might want to make a note of the date and time of the appointment here.

Willow Clinic Appointment Date:.....

Photographs

If you gave consent for photographs to be taken, there will be available for you around 4 weeks following your baby's birth. Your Bereavement Midwife can arrange for you to have the photographs.

If you would rather not have them at this time, please be assured they will be stored securely at the hospital and can be requested at any time by calling the Perinatal Support Service 01793 605133 to arrange this.

Annual memorial service

This takes place in Baby Loss Awareness Week in October each year. It is run in conjunction with Swindon SANDS.

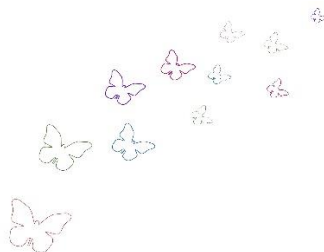
You will receive a written invitation in the first year following your loss. In subsequent years the event will be advertised on Swindon SANDS website.

Book of remembrance

The hospital has a book of remembrance especially for babies and children; it is kept in the Chapel at the Great Western Hospital.

If you would like your baby's name entered; please complete the form at the end of this booklet.

Every year on the anniversary of your baby's death the page will be open for you to see their name. If you wish to see your baby's name at any other time, please contact the hospital Chaplain and this can be arranged for you.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Chaplaincy service

Our Chaplaincy team offer spiritual and pastoral care to all patients and their family to help deal with the experiences of life and death, illness and injury and to process issues of personal meaning and purpose.

Chaplains are trained and experienced in supporting and listening to people in difficult situations and offer a sensitive and discreet service to anyone who needs care. The team can also help with cultural and religious routines and rites of passage for example, naming ceremonies or blessings. The team will contact local religious leaders when necessary.

You will be offered an opportunity to meet with a member of our Chaplaincy team whilst you are in hospital.

Contact details:

The Chaplaincy offer a 24 hour on-call service and the team visit all areas the hospital working alongside other healthcare professionals.

For non-urgent requests, please contact the team on 01793 604288 and leave a message if no one is available to take your call.

For urgent requests an on-call chaplain is available 24/7 and can be contacted via the hospital switchboard.

Useful contact numbers at the Great Western Hospital.

Perinatal Support Service

To contact a Bereavement Midwife.

01793 605133 or email gwh.perinatalsupport@nhs.net (not available 24 hrs)

Maternity bleep holder – 24hrs a day

01793 604020 and ask for bleep 1465

Hospital Chaplain

01793 604020 and ask for on call Chaplain.

Bereavement Services

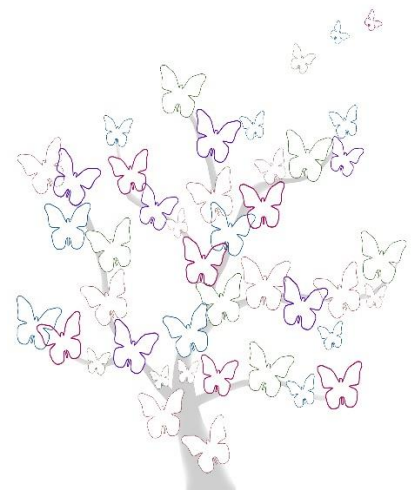
01793 604809 or 01793 604392 10am - 4pm Monday - Friday.



Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.

Please use this page to write down any questions you have for any of the Bereavement Team and / or when you attend you Willow Appointment with a Consultant.



Leaflets available in other languages and formats – to request a copy, please contact 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

Smoking is not permitted on any NHS site in England. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Maternity Information Leaflets for parents are reviewed regularly by parents. If you have any comments/feedback about this leaflet or are interested in looking at future leaflets, please contact our Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) www.bswmaternityvoices.org.uk

Patient Information Leaflet

Bereavement support following the death of your baby.



Book of Remembrance

I wish to have my baby's (or babies') name entered into the book of remembrance.

Name of Baby (or Babies) _____

Name of Parent/s _____

Your address

Post code _____

Date of birth or baby _____ and Date of death (if different) _____

Please remove this page and sent it to:

The Chaplains Department
Great Western Hospital
Marlborough Road
Swindon
SN3 6BB



I enclose a donation to help with the cost of placing my baby's name in the book of remembrance (please tick)

The Chaplaincy Team Leader and staff wish to extend their heartfelt sympathy to you in your time of great loss. Should you wish to contact us our number is 01793 604288.