

Information for parents who have suffered a stillbirth or neonatal death

Introduction

We would like to extend our sympathy to you at this time. The early days following bereavement can often be bewildering and difficult. This leaflet has been prepared to offer information for bereaved parents who have suffered the loss of a baby after 24 weeks of pregnancy. We hope you find the following information helpful.

Spending time with your baby

You and your family may wish to spend time with your baby. During this time you may wish to wash, dress, hold and cuddle your baby. It may be possible to obtain hand and footprints and a lock of hair.

Photographs

The hospital can arrange for photographs of your baby to be taken and you can also take photographs yourself.

Blessing of your baby

When your baby is born your midwife or nurse, with your permission, can contact the hospital chaplain or your own religious leader. Even if you do not have a particular religious faith, you may find it helpful to talk to one of them, and you may like a blessing for your baby.

Going home

Following your discharge from hospital, your community midwife will offer to visit you at home.

Your GP and health visitor will be informed about what has happened and may visit you.

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Patient Information

You will be offered a follow up appointment with your hospital consultant eighteen to twenty weeks after your discharge from hospital. At this appointment, you will have the opportunity to discuss any test results and the implications if any for the future.

Registering your baby

The midwife or doctor will issue you with either a certificate of stillbirth or a neonatal death certificate. This certificate should be taken to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Following a neonatal death, this should be done within 5 working days. Following a stillbirth, you have 42 days in which to register, although we would advise you do this as early as possible so that funeral arrangements can be made. You should telephone the registrar's office for an appointment. When you visit the registrar will then give you a certificate for burial or cremation.

Please note: If parents are unmarried, either both parents or just the mother need to be present to register.

Telephone 01452 425060 for an appointment at any of these registry offices:

Cheltenham	Dursley	Cinderford
Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury
Coleford	Lydney	Cirencester
Wotton-under-Edge		Moreton-in-Marsh

Opening hours will vary depending on the location.

Funeral arrangements

You can make arrangements for your own private funeral service. The Bereavement Specialist Midwife can provide support and advice with this. Your baby can be cremated or buried in a cemetery of your choice. The burial or cremation certificate, from the registrar, should be taken to the funeral director you have chosen, together with a release form which will be issued from the hospital.

**Patient
Information**

Although the thought of arranging and attending the funeral may seem painful and distressing, afterwards you may find it beneficial and a comfort to you in your grief.

Hospital Remembrance Books

There is a Remembrance Book in the Hospital Chapel where you are welcome to place an entry in memory of your baby. Please ask your bereavement midwife for further details.

Hospital Chaplain

Cheltenham General Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 4286

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 6200

Bereavement Support Midwife

You can contact the bereavement support midwife on:
Tel: 0300 422 5564

Further information**Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS)**

Tel: 0808 164 3332
Website: www.sands.org.uk/

Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC)

Tel: 0845 077 2290
If using a mobile:
Tel: 0207 713 7486
Website: www.arc-uk.org

Child Bereavement Trust (CBT)

Tel: 0800 02 888 40
Website: www.childbereavement.org.uk

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