

# Leaflet C: Information following an elective termination

## Information for patients from Women's Health

We apologise if this leaflet reaches you at a bad time, but we feel it is important for you to know exactly how our Trust will handle the remains of your terminated pregnancy.

### What is an elective termination?

An elective termination is a termination of pregnancy (abortion) for primarily social rather than medical reasons.

### How does the Trust handle products of conception?

On the last Thursday of the month following the termination at 9:30am\* all fetuses and foetal tissues from that month are taken to Thanet Crematorium for a simple ceremony of communal cremation. So if for example, your termination was in June the ceremony would take place on the last Thursday of July. We will need you to sign a consent form for this to take place. Please note, that following the communal cremation, ashes are not returned to parents but are scattered in the Baby and Child area of St John's Cemetery (next to Thanet Crematorium).

The ceremony is completely confidential, and no names are read out aloud or published in any way whatsoever.

Because the crematorium is a public building you have the option to attend if you so wish, although there is no obligation whatsoever for you to do so.

The hospital chaplains and women's health counsellors are available should you wish to talk with them. Their contact telephone numbers are listed on the next page.

\*If this date falls on a bank holiday the ceremony will take place on the last working day before, at the same time and place.



## And finally...

Elective termination is a sensitive subject to raise with patients who are experiencing many different kinds of emotions. We hope that this leaflet has been helpful to you during this difficult time.

## Contact numbers

- **William Harvey Hospital, Ashford**

- Chaplains Telephone: 01233 63 33 31 extension 723-8014
- Bereavement Support Officers Telephone: 01233 61 68 87
- Women's Health Counsellor Telephone: 01233 63 33 31 and ask for the switchboard to make contact)
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Telephone: 01227 78 31 45

- **Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate**

- Chaplains Telephone: 01843 23 42 73
- Bereavement Support Officers Telephone: 01843 23 44 52
- Women's Health Counsellor Telephone: 01843 22 55 44 extension 725-3049
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Telephone: 01227 78 31 45

- **Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury**

- Chaplains Telephone: 01843 23 42 73
- Bereavement Support Officers Telephone: 01227 86 40 06
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Telephone: 01227 78 31 45

- **Other helpful contacts**

- Antenatal Result and Choices (ARC) Telephone: 020 76 31 02 85
- Marie Stopes Clinics Telephone: 0845 300 80 90
- Options Pregnancy Counselling Telephone: 01843 29 52 22

**This leaflet has been produced with and for women and their families**

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

**Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments** please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email [ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net)

**Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital.** Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

**Further patient leaflets** are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site [www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation](http://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation)