

Referral Support Service

Gynaecology

GY04

Early Pregnancy Problems/ EPAU

Definition

- Bleeding in early pregnancy-EPAU will arrange a scan for viability when the pregnancy is 6 weeks or more.
- Medical or early obstetric complications should be addressed by the booking Midwife or advice from the duty obstetrician can always be sought (e.g. for diabetes/ epileptics requiring early referral).

Exclude Red Flag Symptoms

- Always consider Ectopic Pregnancy: Assess abdominal/pelvic pain and vaginal bleeding. If haemodynamically unstable or significant pain or bleeding – emergency ambulance
- For symptoms/signs of ectopic see [NICE guideline](#)

Management

PV Bleeding in early pregnancy

- Continue to assess pain and blood loss. Admit/ refer if symptoms increase.
- < 6 weeks gestation –expectant management. Follow with urine pregnancy tests, if positive at 6 weeks arrange scan via EPAU.
- 6 weeks or more gestation – arrange scan via EPAU:
 - Before 1.00pm 01904 726489
 - After 1.00pm 01904 726001

PV Bleeding in Second Trimester

Up to 16 weeks:

- Light bleeds: check rhesus status, examine cervix and consider Doppler check of FH.
- If bleeding significant or concerns about viability: refer to EPAU

16-20 weeks:

- Light bleeds: check rhesus status, examine cervix and consider Doppler check of FH.
- If bleeding significant or abdominal pain present: Gynae SHO on Bleep 661

Over 20 weeks:

- Call Labour Ward triage 01904 725924 (for York)

Referral Information

Information to include in referral letter

- Details of obstetric history
- Any treatment to cervix

Responsible GP: Dr Emma Broughton
Responsible Consultant: Mr Jim Dwyer

Clinical Research & Effectiveness approved: Mar 2017
Date published: Mar 2017
Next Review: Sep 2024

©NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group – Version 2

The on-line version is the only version that is maintained. Any printed copies should, therefore, be viewed as 'uncontrolled' and as such may not necessarily contain the latest updates and amendments.

- Relevant past medical/surgical history
- Current regular medication
- BMI
- Smoking status

Investigations prior to referral

- Result of urinary pregnancy test or serum hCGs (if taken)

Patient information leaflets/ PDAs

- Early miscarriage: [Miscarriage - NHS Choices](#)
- GP Learning Points from last confidential enquiry [Saving Women's Lives](#)

References

- [Investigation of couples with recurrent first-trimester and second-trimester miscarriages- RCOG Green top Guideline No 17 2011](#)
- [NICE Guidelines 154- Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage](#)