

Maternity Bereavement Support Service

Introduction

We would like to offer our sympathy to you and your family at this sad and difficult time. During the days and weeks ahead, continued support will be available to you, which will be adapted to your individual needs.

We want you to know we are committed to offering sensitive care in response to families' individual needs. We have a responsibility to offer choices to the family and to provide information needed to help make those choices.

It is also our responsibility to treat parents and families with respect and honesty, enabling them to grieve for their baby with dignity.

Bereavement support

The Bereavement Support Midwife is based in the Maternity Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. The bereavement support midwife will contact you by telephone, if you have been discharged from hospital and offer to visit you at home. At first you may not wish to take up this offer.

We understand this, but ask that you keep this leaflet so that if you change your mind, you can make contact yourself.

Continuing support

Support for you and your family can include home visits, telephone contact or a mixture of both. The length of time and how often we can offer you support will depend on your individual need, which we will assess.

Home visits will usually last for an hour and are arranged for a date and time suitable for you. If there is anything you wish to know or talk about, please contact the bereavement support midwife. The telephone numbers are at the end of this leaflet.

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Department

Maternity

Review due

January 2023

**Patient
Information**

Photographs

If photographs were taken of your baby by the hospital photographer, they will be developed in the Medical Photography department. When they are ready, you will be contacted so that arrangements can be made for them to be delivered to you.

Remembrance service

An annual remembrance service is held for parents, family and friends. At Gloucestershire Royal Hospital the service is held in the hospital chapel on the last Friday of September and it is held at St Luke's Church, Cheltenham on the first Friday of October.

Contact information

Bereavement Support Midwife

Maternity Unit
The Women's Centre
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 5564

Tel: 07799 060328

Mondays, Wednesday and Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Messages will be returned on the midwife's next working day.

Hospital Chaplains

Tel: 0300 422 6200

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Bereavement Officer

Tower Block, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 6742

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Further information

Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS)

Tel: 0207 436 5881

Website: www.uk-sands.org

**Patient
Information**

Ante-natal Results and Choices

Tel: 0207 631 0285

Website: www.arc-uk.org

The Miscarriage Association

Tel: 01924 200 799

Website: www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

Child Bereavement Charity

Tel: 01494 446648

Website: www.childbereavementuk.org

Resources that you may find helpful

When a baby dies

Nancy Kohner, Alix Henley - Pandora Press 1995

Precious Lives, Painful Choices

Sherokee Ilse Wintergreen

Living with

Leo Mario Di Clemente - SANDS 2004

Benedict a child of mine

Alexa Warden - Child Bereavement Trust 1999

Miscarriage

What every woman should know

Prof. Lesley Regan - Bloomsbury 1997

Miscarriage Women's experiences and needs

Christine Moulder - Routledge 2002

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