

EARLY PREGNANCY ASSESSMENT SERVICE (EPAS)
REFERRAL GUIDELINES

Who staffs the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service?

The clinic is staffed by a consultant gynaecologist, a gynaecology registrar, a resident medical officer and a midwife.

Who should be referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS)?

Women who are less than 20 weeks pregnant and have experienced bleeding and/or pain with their pregnancy may be referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service.

The clinic is held each weekday morning. The woman's condition should be stable enough not to warrant immediate attention. If they require **URGENT** attention, please refer them to the Prince of Wales Emergency Department.

Women referred to EPAS must be able to walk unaided to the clinic. i.e not requiring wheelchair or trolley.

You may refer the following women to the clinic:

- Women who have bleeding and/or pain before 20 weeks pregnancy
- Women who require a β hCG follow up
- Women who have had an ectopic pregnancy treated as an outpatient with methotrexate
- Women who are having a miscarriage treated non-surgically
- Women with a non viable pregnancy on ultrasound scan

Who should not be referred to the clinic?

- Women who have general gynaecology problems that are not related to early pregnancy. These women should be referred to a Gynaecology Clinic through our Gynaecology Outpatients Department on 9382 6249 or 9382 6248.

All **URGENT**, non-pregnancy related, gynaecology problems should be referred to the Prince of Wales Emergency Department for assessment.

- Women who are less than 20 weeks pregnant and require **urgent** review. Please contact the on-call gynaecology registrar via the Hospital switch on 9382 6111 and ask that they be paged.
- Women who are more than 20 weeks pregnant and require urgent review. These women should be sent to the Delivery Suite, located on level 1 of the Royal Hospital for Women. Please notify the Delivery Suite staff on 9382 6100 that the woman will be arriving.

On arrival the woman should present to the Admissions Desk on level 0 of the Hospital before proceeding to the Delivery Suite.

- Women presenting with psychosocial problems should be referred to the Social Work Department on 9382 6670.

Will women be automatically referred for an ultrasound?

Only women who cannot be adequately assessed by the Clinic staff will be formally referred to the Medical Imaging Department.

When is the Clinic open?

Monday to Friday by appointment only. Women without an appointment will be referred to their General Practitioner or, if the problem is urgent, to the Emergency Department of the Prince of Wales Hospital for assessment. Women in a stable condition will be given the next available appointment at the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service.

The Clinic is not open during Public Holidays or at the weekend. This applies for the Christmas/New Year period.

Limited appointments are available from 7.30am Monday to Friday and can only be made by phoning 9382 6701 or paging 46520 (Monday to Friday 07.30 – 16.00). After hours, phone 9382 6111 and ask to have the Nursing Supervisor paged on pager 44020.

Where is the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS) located?

The Early Pregnancy Assessment Service is located in the Fertility & Research Centre,
Level 0, Royal Hospital for Women.

What information does the woman need to take to the appointment?

- **REFERRAL LETTER**
- Quantitative β hCG result
- Blood group
- Copy of emergency notes and other relevant test results, e.g. ultrasound