

EPAS – Management of women with problems in early pregnancy

This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP.

1. AIM

- To ensure timely referral of appropriate patient to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS).

2. PATIENT

- Woman who is less than 20 weeks pregnant and has experienced bleeding and/or pain with the pregnancy
- Woman who requires a β hCG follow up
- Woman who has had an ectopic pregnancy treated as an outpatient with methotrexate
- Woman who is having a miscarriage treated non-surgically
- Woman with a non-viable pregnancy on ultrasound scan

3. STAFF

- Medical, Midwifery and Nursing Staff

4. EQUIPMENT

- Nil

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Triage woman appropriately as per "Appendix 1"
- Obtain detailed history of presenting problem
- Obtain detailed medical/obstetric history
- Review previous blood tests, ultrasound reports
- Ensure anti-D given to Rhesus negative woman as appropriate
- Refer to pathology laboratory/ultrasound as required
- Discuss results with woman and plan further management
- Complete notes and GP letter, fax to GP and/or private consultant
- Provide woman with relevant written information and contact numbers

6. DOCUMENTATION

- Integrated clinical notes
- EPAS medical history form
- GP fax letter

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- EPAS is open Monday to Friday by appointment only. Woman 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. Woman in a stable condition will be given the next available appointment at EPAS
- A woman referred to EPAS must be able to walk unaided to the clinic
- EPAS is not open during Public Holidays or at the weekend
- Appointments are available at 0730 and 0800 hours, Monday to Friday and can be made by paging EPAS Coordinator on 46520 (Monday to Friday 0730–1600 Hours). After these hours phone 02 9382 6111 and ask for the After Hours Bed Manager (AHBM) to be paged
- EPAS is located in the Department of Reproductive Medicine, Level 0, Royal Hospital for Women
- Only a woman who cannot be adequately assessed by the clinic staff will be formally referred to the Medical Imaging Department

CLINICAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Approved by Quality & Patient Safety Committee – 19/11/15

EPAS – Management of women with problems in early pregnancy cont'd

- Preferred terminology include :
 - Blighted ovum/anembryonic pregnancy
 - Possible early pregnancy
 - Viable pregnancy
 - Missed miscarriage
 - Incomplete miscarriage
 - Empty uterus
- There are patient information leaflets available. These include:
 - Complete miscarriage
 - Conservative management of miscarriage
 - Dilatation and curettage
 - Ectopic pregnancy
 - Repeat β hCG
 - Social Work Department miscarriage package

Who should not be referred to the clinic:

- Woman who has a general gynaecological problem that is not related to early pregnancy. This woman should be referred to a Gynaecology Clinic through RHW Gynaecology Outpatients Department, telephone 02 9382 6248 or 02 9382 6249
- All **urgent** non-pregnancy or pregnancy <20 weeks gestation related gynaecological problem should be referred to the Prince of Wales Emergency Department for assessment
- Woman who is less than 20 weeks pregnant and requires **urgent** review. Please contact the on-call Gynaecology Registrar via the RHW switchboard on 02 9382 6111 and ask that they be paged. This woman should also be seen and stabilised by the POW Emergency doctors whilst alerting the on-call registrar to review
- Woman who is more than 20 weeks pregnant and requires urgent review. This woman should be sent to the Delivery Suite located on Level 1, RHW. Please notify the Delivery Suite staff on 02 9382 6100 that the woman will be arriving. On arrival the woman should present to the Admissions Desk on Level 0, RHW before proceeding to the Delivery Suite if clinically stable
- Woman presenting with psychosocial problems should be referred to the Social Work Department on 02 9382 6670

8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP

- Miscarriage – Medical management
- Miscarriage – Surgical management
- Maternity – Early Pregnancy Complications (DoH Policy) PD2009_58
- Gestational trophoblastic disease (complete and partial molar pregnancy)
- Hyperemesis gravidarum and nausea and vomiting in pregnancy - management

9. RISK RATING

- Low

10. REFERENCES

- 1 Maternity – Management of Early Pregnancy Complications, NSW Health Document PD 2012_022
- 2 Ectopic Pregnancy & Miscarriage, NICE Guideline 154. Dec 2012

REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs group July 2015
Minor amendments to booking processes December 2010
Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 15/10/09

FOR REVIEW : JULY 2020

APPENDIX 1

PATIENT REFERRAL GUIDE

Appointments available between 0730 – 0800 Hrs Monday to Friday
 Appointments can be made by phoning 02 9382 6701 or paging 46520
 (Out of hours: Call 02 9382 6111 and ask to have the Patient Flow Bed Manager/After Hours Nurse Manager (AHNM) paged on 44020)

