

Early pregnancy assessment clinic

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What the service offers

We provide early scans for women who may have a problem with pregnancy, and offer open access to Petter Day Treatment Unit (Petter DTU) afterwards.

Where and when service is provided

We are based on Petter DTU, Ladywell Unit, North Devon District Hospital. The clinic operates Monday to Friday.

How to be referred

You will need to be referred to us by your GP or midwife.

What will happen at the appointment

A nurse and a sonographer will be present in the room.

The nurse will see you first and take a brief medical history.

We will then offer you a scan. An abdominal scan is preferred. However in very early pregnancy, an internal scan will be needed. This is performed by the nurse or the sonographer and the process will be explained to you.

One person can accompany you into the scan room.

Depending on the scan results, you may be offered:

- open access to the ward (see below)
- BHCG monitoring (see below)
- a plan in case of miscarriage (see separate information sheet)

Open access

Open access means that you can contact Petter DTU or King George V Ward and speak to a member of staff for advice, or come back into hospital for observation. This open access will be for an agreed period of time.

Contact details:

Petter DTU - 01271 322722, Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 6pm

King George V Ward - 01271 322720 at night or over the weekend

BHCG monitoring

If the scan is inconclusive, a blood test is needed to measure the pregnancy hormone level. This will give an indication of how the pregnancy is progressing.

At least two samples are required, at 48-hour intervals. We will contact you with the result the following day and provide you with a plan for coping with your pregnancy.

Follow-up plan

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Raleigh Park, Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JB Tel. 01271 322577 www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

© Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
This leaflet was designed by the Communications Department.
Tel: 01271 313970 / email: ndht.contactus@nhs.net