

Emergency Department

Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU)

This leaflet explains more about the Early Pregnancy Unit. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is the Early Pregnancy Unit?

The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) is a walk-in unit open and free of charge to any woman who is less than 14 weeks pregnant and experiencing symptoms which she finds to be concerning like bleeding or pain or if she is unsure of the dates of her pregnancy. If you have had a previous miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy, you can also be seen in EPU for a dating or pregnancy location scan.

Location and opening times

The EPU is based in the gynaecology clinic on the ground floor of Lanesborough Wing.

The clinic is open from 08.30 to 11.00 Monday to Saturday. **The unit is now CLOSED on Sundays and all Bank Holidays.**

Who can access it?

Anyone with a positive pregnancy test of less than 14 weeks can access the service. You do not need a referral from your GP or Emergency Department.

When referred from the Emergency Department to come for 8.30am, please note that this is not an appointment, but the time at which the clinic opens. You will of course be assessed and triaged.

You should attend Emergency Department if suffering from

- Severe pain in lower stomach
- Pain in shoulders
- Excessive bleeding (much heavier than normal period or changing pads every hour)
- Severe nausea or vomiting
- Feeling dizzy, faint or collapse
- Feeling shivers, flu like symptoms or a smelly vaginal discharge.

What happens in EPU?

EPU reception will give you some forms to fill in e.g. demographic details, pregnancy history etc.

After completion, you will bring the form back to get you onto the system and then wait to be called by name. Please bring something to read as it can be a long wait.

You may not always be seen in order of arrival with unwell patients being triaged ahead of you and follow-up clinics also taking place. We always endeavour to see you as quickly as possible.

The reception can give you an approximate time of waiting.

You are welcome to bring one person with you.

If needed, an interpreter can be organised for you.

Consultation

You will see a member of the team, who will review your history and perform a transvaginal scan (TVS).

We will inform you at the time of the consultation of the pregnancy outcome and give you advice accordingly.

We offer medical, surgical and conservative management of miscarriage determined by scan findings and guidelines.

It can be an extremely anxious time for everyone and most people here are in the same situation. Please keep our receptionists updated on your condition and if anything changes or if you have any concerns.

Useful sources of information

Maternity services

<https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/service/maternity-services/your-pregnancy/early-pregnancy/>

Contact us

The EPU nurses can be contacted on 020 8725 0093 and will respond to messages after clinic, usually around lunchtime.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: AAE_EPUI_01 **Published:** January 2021 **Review date:** January 2023