

## Maternity

# Referral to Fetal Medicine

This information leaflet is for women and their families who have been referred to the Fetal Medicine Centre at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. Most pregnancies are uncomplicated and result in the birth of a normal, healthy baby. However, some pregnancies require additional care for either the mother or her unborn baby from a specialist in our Fetal Medicine Centre.

## Why have you been referred?

There are many different reasons for a referral to the Fetal Medicine Unit, including:

- A problem found during a routine scan
- A high chance screening result for the most common genetic syndromes
- A history of problems affecting existing children or previous pregnancies
- Certain medical problems in the parents of the baby
- Concerns regarding the location of the placenta

If a concern is suspected, a referral will be made to the UHCW Fetal Medicine Centre. This referral will then be triaged by the specialist consultants and midwives. Most women will not require a Fetal medicine appointment, however, if it is necessary for you to be seen, you will receive either a letter or a phone call informing you of your appointment.



## Patient Information

### **Where are we?**

The Fetal Medicine Unit is located opposite Ward 25, on the second floor of the West Wing at UHCW NHS Trust.

### **What to expect from your visit**

On arrival, the receptionist will welcome you and confirm your contact details. We will do some routine observations and then you will see the Fetal Medicine consultant, who will carry out a detailed ultrasound scan.

After your ultrasound scan is completed, the doctor will discuss the findings. You will be given a report with all the information about your visit. If any problems are found, these will be fully explained and you will have time to ask questions and discuss them with the doctor and/or the Midwife.

### **Further tests**

In some cases, diagnostic tests (e.g. amniocentesis, blood tests) may be offered to give you and the doctor additional information about your baby. These tests will be discussed in detail with you and written information will be provided. Tests are optional and we understand that you may need time to make decision.

### **Following your Appointment**

When your appointment is complete, you will receive a contact telephone number for the Fetal Medicine Midwives, who are available to provide further information and support after your visit. Please do not be discouraged if an answer machine picks up your call, leave a message with your contact details and one of the team members will get back to you when they are available.

If you require a follow-up appointment, it will be booked before you leave the centre. You will also be given a detailed report of your scan findings.

### **How long will your appointment take?**

Most appointments will last between 30 to 60 minutes, however, occasionally more time may be required. Sometimes, appointments can be delayed if the person before you have complicated problems, and we appreciate your patience if this affects you.

Please try to arrive on time, as if you are late this may cause delays, and we may need to reschedule your appointment. You should allow plenty of time for travel and please be aware that car parking is limited at UHCW NHS Trust. If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know.

### **Who can you bring?**

We advise that you bring your partner, a close friend or a relative to your appointment. Please do not bring more than 1 person, as there is not enough space for lots of people in our waiting room or scan rooms. Additionally, we kindly ask that you do not bring children to the appointments.

UHCW NHS Trust is a teaching and training hospital. Therefore, during your appointment, several members of staff may be present, including the consultant, a senior trainee and the midwife running the clinic. There may also be visiting doctors, medical students and student midwives, all of whom are in the process of learning. They will introduce themselves and you should be asked whether you are comfortable with the number of people present. If at any point you feel uncomfortable, please make the team aware and they will try their best to accommodate your request.

If you have any questions please call Fetal Medicine at 024 76966572. Please note that we are open from 8am to 6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9am to 1pm on Wednesday. If we are unable to answer your call, please leave a voicemail, and we will call you back.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you require this Information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6572 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

## Patient Information

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



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