

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. If a concern is suspected during a routine scan, a referral will be made to UHCW Fetal Medicine Centre. This referral will then be triaged by the specialist Consultants. Most women will not require Fetal medicine appointment, however if it is necessary for you to be seen you will either be sent a letter or a telephone call informing you of your appointment.

Where are we

The Fetal Medicine Unit is located opposite ward 25, on the 2nd floor of the West Wing at UHCW NHS Trust.

What to expect from your visit

On arrival the receptionist will ask you for your pregnancy notes if you have any and will confirm your contact details with you. It is important that you arrive on time for your appointment. If you are late we may need to reschedule your appointment.

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 and all of



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the baby's measurements. If any problems are found this will be fully explained and you will have time to ask questions and discuss 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 will be discussed in detail with you and written information provided. Tests are optional and we understand you may need time to make decision.

Following your Appointment

When your appointment is completed you will be provided with contact telephone number for the Fetal Medicine Midwives who are available to provide more information and support you 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 will get back to you when they are available. If you need a follow-up appointment, this will be booked before you leave the centre. You will be given a detailed report of your scan findings.

Urgent and high-risk patients who attend the department may need longer than their allocated appointment time. This can cause delays in the clinic. When you arrive we will try to keep closely to your appointment time and will inform you if there is a delay.

UHCW NHS Trust is a teaching and training hospital. Therefore during your appointment, there may be several members of staff 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 all introduce themselves and you should be asked whether or not you are comfortable to continue with the number of people present. If at any point you feel uncomfortable make the team aware and they will try to accommodate your request.

Patient Information

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.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk.

Document History

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