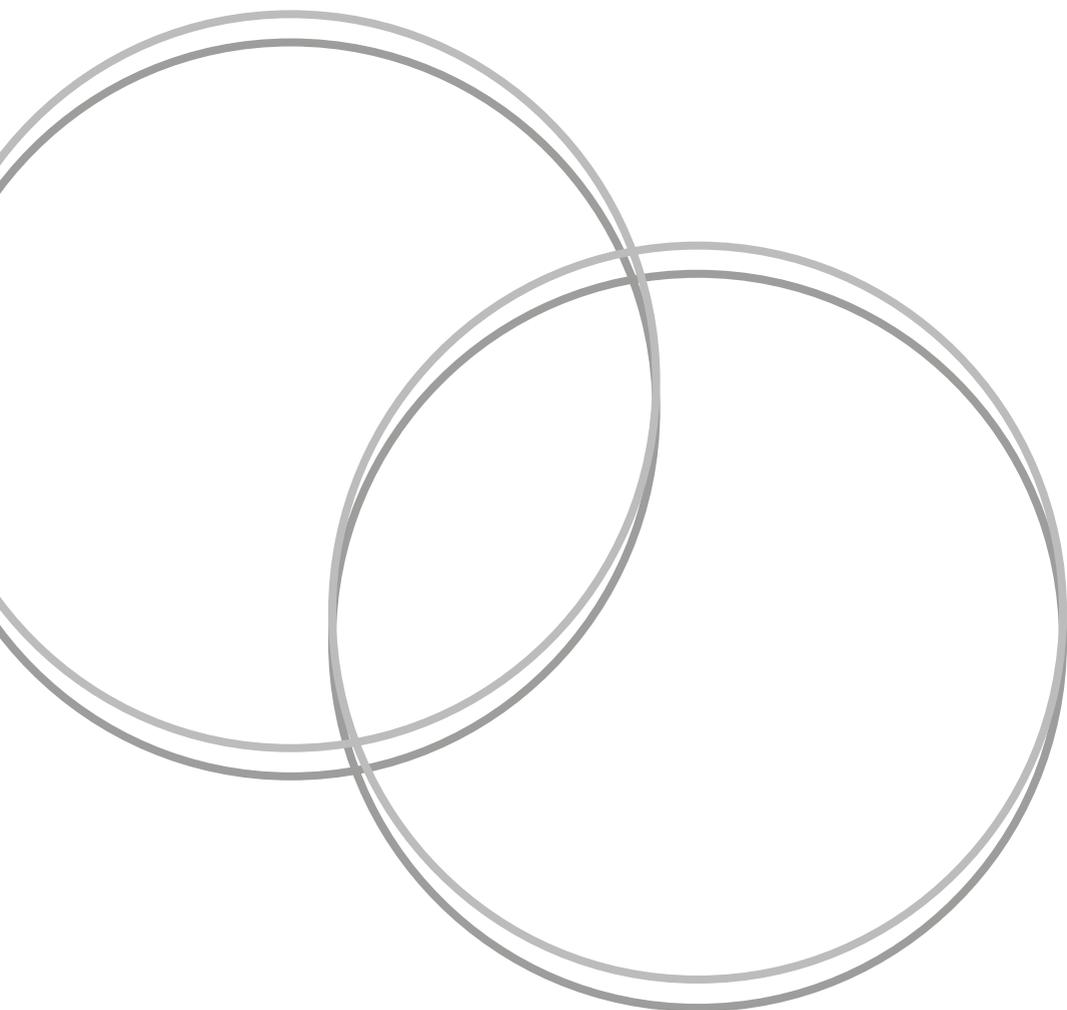




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to Gynaecology Triage

Information leaflet



We have given you this leaflet as you have come to the Gynaecology Triage with a gynaecological problem, either in early pregnancy or due to pain, bleeding or another issue.

We know that this may be an anxious time for you, so we have written this leaflet to give you some more information.

What should I expect while I am waiting in Gynaecology Triage?

If you have not received one already from another department, you will be given a patient identification wristband which we ask you to kindly wear during your stay.

In Gynaecology Triage, the first initial assessment of your symptoms will take place, to assess how urgent your problem is.

This may include a nurse or nursing assistant undertaking:

- **Observations**

A set of observations (blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, temperature and oxygen saturations) will be taken.

- **Blood tests**

There are various reasons for testing your blood; these will be taken based on the history of your presenting complaint when assessed by the Nurse or Doctor. Sometimes, certain symptoms do not indicate a need for a blood test, so please do not feel that you have been missed out at this assessment stage if a sample is not taken.

We may insert a cannula to ensure that we can give medication or fluids directly into your vein, should it be required or have emergency access should you become unwell to administer medications and fluids.

- **Urine sample**

We will provide you with a specimen pot and ask you to provide a sample for your urine. Then your urine will be tested for pregnancy (if applicable) and any potential signs of infection.

After this initial assessment, you will then wait to see the Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Doctor for a review and further investigations.

Further Investigations may include:

- **Internal examination**

You may need to have an internal examination. The Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Doctor will explain this procedure and ask for your consent verbally. You will be asked to lie on the examination couch, draw your heels up towards your bottom and allow your legs to relax outwards (like when you have a cervical smear test). The specialist may gently insert two fingers into your vagina, to examine the area, or a speculum (a small plastic instrument) may be gently inserted into your vagina and opened up to allow the specialist to see the vagina and cervix. An examination light will be used for this examination. You will be offered a chaperone for this procedure. A swab for infection may be taken.

Please escalate any concerns that you have to the nursing team or healthcare professionals regarding this examination.

If you wish to take someone in for support, such as a partner, family member or friend you may do so.

Please know that you can stop this examination at any time if you wish to do so.

- **Ultrasound**

We will assess the need for an ultrasound during your admission.

During a vaginal ultrasound an internal probe is gently placed just inside your vagina; this often gives a much clearer picture of what is happening in your pelvis.

Waiting times

We aim to ensure that you are seen as soon as possible, however it is extremely difficult to predict how long this will take as waiting times are dependent on the number of people waiting and the severity of their conditions. The Doctor also covers the Ward and our Day Surgery Unit therefore there may also be patients in those areas that require an urgent review. The Triage nurse will aim to keep you updated or if there are reasons for prolonged delays.

In Triage, patients requiring immediate attention will be seen first. We appreciate that this can be frustrating and distressing. At times, it may appear that the waiting area is quiet, however, this does not reflect activity in Triage or on the Ward/Day Surgery Unit.

Please be aware, at night the waiting times can be longer as the on-call Doctor is shared by many wards within the Women's centre. Often the on-call Doctor can be called for emergency surgery on Delivery Suite or to an unwell patient on Maternity Assessment Unit or Observational Area.

What happens next?

When the investigations have been completed, the Advanced Nurse Practitioner or the Doctor will talk with you about what happens next.

You may need to be referred for:

- Repeat scan at a later date.
- Blood test.
- Further assessment.
- To think about the treatment options available to you.

You may be discharged home, back to the care of your GP or with a follow up appointment.

You might also need to be admitted to the Gynaecology Ward for observation and further intervention.

Who to contact and when?

Emergency Department

If you develop any of the following symptoms, please go to your nearest Emergency Department or call for an Ambulance:

- Persistent and heavy vaginal bleeding, where you are soaking an entire sanitary pad every 30 minutes to an hour, and with clots that are the size of a 50p or bigger.
- Less than 16 weeks pregnant with severe abdominal pain (this may be only on one side) and shoulder tip pain (on the outside of your shoulder).
- Severe abdominal pain or pelvic pain with known gynaecological history.
- Wound infection with sepsis symptoms (e.g., fever, breathlessness, feeling generally unwell, fast heartbeat, aching or weak muscles, unable to pass urine, shivering or muscle pain).
- Heavy post-menopausal bleeding.
- Post gynaecology surgery complications.

If you are unsure of whether to attend the Emergency Department or need advice, please contact the following:

NHS 111

When you need fast advice, but it is not a 999 emergency, you can call this service for free from landlines and mobile phones.

Telephone: **111** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Rose Hill Community Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)

EPAU is based in the community (not at a hospital) and care for women who are less than 16 weeks pregnant and are experiencing a problem (such a pain and/or bleeding).

You can self-refer to EPAU by calling the clinic.

Rose Hill EPAU

Carole's Way

Rose Hill

Oxford, OX4 4HF

Telephone: **01865 221 142**

(Mondays to Fridays, 8:00am to 6:00pm. Out of hours calls will be transferred to the Gynaecology Ward).

Gynaecology Ward and Triage

Level 1, Women's Centre

John Radcliffe Hospital

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Telephone: **01865 222 001** or **01865 222 002**

(24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Horton Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic

Horton General Hospital

Oxford Road

Banbury, OX16 9AL

Telephone: **01295 229 090**

(Monday to Fridays, 8:00am to 5:00pm).

For any questions or pregnancy advice at 16 weeks or over please contact:

Maternity Assessment Unit

Level 2, Women's Centre

John Radcliffe Hospital

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Telephone: **01865 220 221**

(24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: Gynaecology Patient Information Co-Ordinator,
Gynaecology Ward Sister.

July 2024

Review: July 2027

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



Making a difference across our hospitals

charity@ouh.nhs.uk | 01865 743 444 | hospitalcharity.co.uk

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

