Gynaecology Assessment Unit

Department of Gynaecology
What is the Gynaecology Assessment Unit?

We are a doctor-led specialised unit for women who present as an emergency with acute gynaecological conditions such as:
- Red/swollen/painful lump on the vagina known as a Bartholin’s cyst
- Vaginal bleeding
- Sudden abdominal pain
- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Ovarian cyst
- Severe nausea and vomiting in pregnant women (6 to 14 weeks)
- Post operative problem for women who have had gynaecological surgery within last 30 days
- Vaginal bleeding or pain in early stages of pregnancy (between 6 to 14 weeks pregnant), presenting outside of Early Pregnancy Unit working hours 8am – 4pm weekdays
- Fluid collection related to underlying gynaecological cancer known as Ascites
- Ovarian Hyperstimulation following fertility treatment
- Post-natal problems for women who are 10 days post delivery.

Where is the Unit?

We are on the 11th Floor of the Tower Block at The Royal Sussex County Hospital. Telephone: 01273 523191.

What is the referral process?

Women with gynaecological conditions may be referred via the following:
- Accident & Emergency department
- Urgent Care Centre
- GP
- Early Pregnancy Unit
- Gynaecology Assessment Unit
- From another speciality

This is not a walk in clinic however it is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with all referrals triaged by the Gynaecological Registrar on call on bleep 8618.
What will happen when you arrive to the unit and during your consultation?

Please note waiting times in this unit can vary depending on the on call doctors who are busy with other emergencies and the nature of your visit will be prioritised according to your clinical presentation.

Our nurse co–ordinator will ask you to provide a urine sample and your temperature and blood pressure will be checked. Your consultation will be with one of our doctors. An in depth history of your symptoms will be taken. Decisions will be made as to which tests or investigations you may require for example blood tests, having a speculum inserted into your vagina and swabs taken, an abdominal examination and an ultrasound.

What happens after your investigations?

Your doctor may:
- Decide you are medically fit and able to go home
- Arrange a follow-up appointment at the Unit
- Ask you to contact the unit for test results
- Refer you to another speciality
- Refer you to your GP
- Explain the likelihood of having to stay in hospital and the reasons
- Refer you to another outpatient clinic within the Gynaecology speciality.

These decisions will be under taken with your consent.

Useful links:
- Patient UK.(2010) Information Leaflets [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [www.rcog.co.uk](http://www.rcog.co.uk)
- BSUH NHS TRUST(2011) GP001 Early Pregnancy Unit Clinical Guidelines
- Patient UK Information leaflets [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)
- Women’s Health Category
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [www.rcog.co.uk](http://www.rcog.co.uk)
If you have bleeding and/or pain you can get medical help and advice from:

- Your GP or midwife who may advise you to go to hospital
- Your nearest EPU which can be found at www.earlypregnancy.org.uk/FindUS1.asp.
- Referral into the Early Pregnancy unit is based on assessment by a health professional.

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

This information leaflet has been produced by Samantha Nair (Gynaecology Department)

If you require this document in a language other than English please inform your interpreter or a member of staff.