

# Consent for Histopathological Examination and Disposal of Early Miscarriages



Use for early pregnancy losses without fetal remains or with a fetus less than 6cms crown rump size, usually first trimester

## Part 1: Patient's Details *DO NOT USE ADDRESSOGRAPH LABELS*

Full name: ..... Date of birth: .....  
Address: ..... GP's name & address: .....  
.....  
H&C no: ..... Date of Miscarriage: .....  
Hospital: ..... Ward: ..... Consultant: .....

## Part 2: Information

A miscarriage is when a pregnancy ends in the early months. In most cases the miscarriage consists of the placenta, blood clots and decidua (lining of womb). Although a tiny baby may be seen on ultrasound scan in early pregnancy, fetal remains can only be identified in around 1 out of 100 early miscarriages. There are several reasons for this: no embryo may have developed or the baby may have died quite some time ago and the remains have been reabsorbed. Also at this very early stage of pregnancy, the tissues of a tiny baby are very delicate and fragment easily, becoming mixed in with the placental tissues, and are not easily seen.

The placental tissues are routinely examined to see if a reason can be found for the miscarriage. If only a small amount of tissue is miscarried it may be necessary to process all of it for examination under the microscope and so there may be no tissue remaining for burial or cremation.

If an embryo, fetus or fetal parts are seen your wishes concerning their examination and disposal will be followed.

## Part 3: Examination of fetal remains

If you give consent the fetus or fetal parts will be carefully examined by the naked-eye. Then the tissues will be processed by making wax blocks and glass slides for examination under a microscope.

- I consent to the examination of the fetal remains
- I **do not** consent to the examination of the fetal remains

## Part 4: Disposal of tissues from miscarriage

The hospital will bury or cremate any unprocessed tissue and fetal remains unless you indicate below that you will collect them for family burial or cremation. Staff will explain whether **burial or cremation** is the practice in your hospital. **Ashes cannot be returned to you following hospital cremation.** If you indicate that you want the tissues returned you will be contacted when they are ready for collection. If you do not arrange this within 3 months of contact the hospital will bury or cremate them.

- If fetal remains are identified I will collect these and any unprocessed tissues within 3 months
- If fetal remains are **not** identified I will collect any unprocessed tissues within 3 months

## Part 5: Confirmation of consent decisions

Patient's signature ..... Date .....

Healthcare professional's signature ..... Designation .....

PRINT NAME..... GMC/NMC no .....

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Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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