

# Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit

## Information for New Staff Members

**Tena koutou katoa, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Ni  
Sa Bula Vinaka,  
Greetings and Welcome to National Women's**

### History

The aim of EPAU is to decrease waiting times experienced by well and stable patients in the very busy Women's Assessment Unit (WAU) and increase quality of care to women during a highly stressful time by:

- Allowing GPs and referring doctors easy access to a structured clinic via a nurse co-ordinator
- Assessment at a pre-arranged appointment
- Early diagnosis and a management plan
- Scheduled theatre time for surgery if needed, decreasing current waiting times for acute surgery
- Reducing duplication of investigations without compromising standards or patient care.

### EPAU Hours

EPAU Clinic Hours are Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)  
7.30am – 4pm.

### EPAU Contact Details

from 8.00am – 12noon  
Internal Telephone Number – Ext 27230  
External Telephone Number – Phone 307 4949 Ext 27230

Internal Fax Number - 27232  
External Fax Number – 630 9798

### Management of miscarriage protocols

A copy of the policy for medical management of miscarriage is available on the intranet. Follow these directions:

1. Go to the intranet.
2. Click "P"
3. Then click "policies and procedures.
4. Then click "National Women's"
5. Then click "Miscarriage"

### Referring a patient to EPAU for review and /or bloods

1. Patients being referred for bloods should always be asked to come to EPAU in the morning (as early as reasonably possible) to allow time for their blood test results to be processed and for the nurse to ring them in the afternoon with the result and a plan of care.

2. Give the patient the EPAU phone number so if they have any concerns between discharge at ACH and the EPAU appointment they can ring and speak to a nurse for advice.
3. Ring and speak to the EPAU nurse or leave a message on the answer-phone with the name and NHI of the woman and the date she will be attending for the blood test. If this is done then the nurse will be expecting the patient and can ensure she has the patients notes ready on the day the patient will attend.
4. Fax the relevant notes to EPAU including an internal referral.

### **Out of Area Patients**

EPAU does not see out of area patients. Out of area patients who present acutely to WAU and who require follow-up should not be referred to EPAU. They should be given a copy of their discharge summary and asked to present at the appropriate DHB hospital on the day that follow up is required.

### **Who can be seen at EPAU?**

#### **EPAU will see women :**

- Up to 14/40 gestation. Women whose gestation is higher than 14/40 should be referred to WAU.
- Who are well and stable but experiencing problems in pregnancy.
- Who have a confirmed pregnancy loss on USS
- Who require follow up scans or blood tests

#### **EPAU will not see women :**

- Who live outside of ADHB area
- Self-referrals. All women ringing for advice will be referred to their GP or LMC.
- Who are acutely unwell i.e: heavy bleeding and/or pain
- Who have a suspected or confirmed Ectopic pregnancy for their initial assessment. These women must be seen in WAU for their first assessment. EPAU will see these women for follow up appointments for scans or bloods.
- Who are NOT pregnant (i.e: BHCG <5)

### **Other EPAU duties**

#### **GTD/Molar Pregnancy Follow-Up**

EPAU nurses follow-up all patients with Molar pregnancies.

#### **Second Trimester Termination of Pregnancy Service**

EPAU nurses also co-ordinate the ADHB Second Trimester Service.

#### **Problems between referral and EPAU appointment**

All women experiencing an increase in her symptoms between referral and the EPAU appointment should be advised to contact Ward 97 and ask to speak to the Nurse in Charge. The Nurse will assess the woman over the telephone and after discussion with the on-call Registrar, if necessary, will either advise the woman to come in and be assessed acutely or reassure her and ask her to wait for her appointment time.

#### **Rhesus negative patients:**

Please note that women who are rhesus-negative will not be seen at the EPAU solely to have Anti-D. Rhesus-negative women who have been bleeding but have an ongoing pregnancy can collect this themselves by going directly to the LabPlus department at Auckland City Hospital with a copy of their blood group result and a prescription for anti-D. They can then return to their GP or LMCs rooms, the GP, LMC or practice nurse to give the anti-D to them. Currently, rhesus-negative women sent to WAU at ACH solely for anti-D often have long waiting times because patients with other clinical conditions are often triaged as more urgent.

### **Referring a WAU or Ward 97 patient to EPAU for a scan**

When referring a patient to EPAU for a scan. You **MUST** do the following:

1. Fill in an internal referral form (CR2679). Please include a diagnosis, LMP, Gravida & Parity and reason for referral. Fax referral to EPAU 27232
2. Book scan using ROERS
3. Check with the Gynae Nurse for an appointment date, the time will always be 0745. Please give your patient the appt date along with a direction sheet for EPAU. **Patients MUST arrive on time for their appointment – patients who are late may not be scanned and will need to be rescheduled.**

**Please DO NOT simply ask the patient to present to EPAU and please DO NOT double book patients into the same appointment slot.**

Scanning at Greenlane does not have the facility to do acute scans and is almost always fully booked. Patients who simply present or who are double booked may need to be asked to come back the following day and this can be very distressing for all involved.

National Women's Maternity Service,  
Updated October 2012