

Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS)

Royal North Shore Hospital

Ph: 9463 2350

Fax: 9463 1005



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District

Referral Guidelines

WOMEN CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED TO EPAS WITH A PREGNANCY CONFIRMED BY EITHER ULTRASOUND OR BLOOD RESULT

Who staffs the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service?

The Unit is staffed by a nurse/midwife, sonographer and receptionist. An O&G registrar, staff specialist and social worker are available when required.

Who should be referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service?

Women who are less than 20 weeks pregnant and have experienced minor bleeding and/or discomfort with their pregnancy can be referred. **The woman's condition should be stable enough not to warrant immediate attention.** If they require URGENT attention, please refer them to the Emergency Department Ph 9463 2222.

You may refer the following women to the service:

- Women who have bleeding and/or discomfort under 20 weeks gestation (threatened miscarriage)
- Women with a non viable pregnancy on ultrasound scan
- Woman with possible or diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy- must be in a stable condition and NO evidence of rupture
- Woman with gestational trophoblastic disease (molar pregnancy)
- Women who require methotrexate treatment
- Woman who require β hCG follow up monitoring following treatment of methotrexate or pregnancy of unknown location

Who should not be referred to the service?

- Women with other early pregnancy problems e.g. Hyperemesis
- Women who are less than 20 weeks pregnant and require URGENT review should be seen in the Emergency Department
- Women who are >20 weeks. These women should be sent to the Birth Unit.
- Any woman whose condition worsens (i.e. increased pain and/or bleeding), these woman should be seen in the emergency department Ph 946 32222

When is the service open?

- Monday – Friday: 08.00 -14.00 **by appointment only.** We are closed on Public Holidays.
- Appointments can be made by phoning (02) **9463 2350** 08.00 -14.00
- Women who arrive without an appointment and in a stable condition will be offered the choice to either see their GP or the next available appointment in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Service. If their problem is urgent they will be referred to the Emergency Department for assessment.

Where is the Early Pregnancy Service?

The EPAS is located on level 3 of the Clinical Services Building in Woman's Health Ambulatory Care at RNSH.

What information does the woman need to bring to the appointment?

- Referral letter please addressed to staff specialists Dr. Alistair Morris and/or Dr. Michael Nicholl
- Copies of blood test results - β hCG, Blood Group and Antibody Screen and Ultrasound results.

Advice to women

- To bring their Medicare card
- She is likely to have a vaginal ultrasound. A full bladder is not required prior to the appointment.
- Her partner, a relative or friend are welcome to join her if desired and if possible do not bring children
- Do not fast for the appointment and be prepared to stay for up to 4 hours
- Should surgery be necessary such as a D&C this is not likely to take place the same day

NB. If the woman's condition changes before she attends EPAS (i.e. increased pain and/or bleeding) she should attend an Emergency Department as soon as possible.