York Teaching Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Going home when your waters have broken
Information for patients, relatives and carers

槭 For more information, contact Triage
Tel: 01904 725924

Maternity Services
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The York Hospital
Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE
Tel: 01904 631313

Scarborough Hospital
Woodlands Drive, Scarborough, YO12 6QL
Tel: 01723 368111
Our Values: Caring about what we do • Respecting and valuing each other

Caring with Pride: Our ultimate objective is to be trusted to deliver
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens next?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do I need to do at home?</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do I need to contact the hospital?</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact numbers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Values: Caring about what we do • Respecting and valuing each other

Caring with Pride: Our ultimate objective is to be trusted to deliver
Introduction

It has been confirmed that your waters have broken. This is considered a normal event from 37 weeks of pregnancy. Around 60% of women will start to have contractions and start labour naturally within 24 hours of their waters breaking.

You may however not have regular contractions and go into labour after your waters have broken and it would then be recommended that your labour is induced, to minimise the risk of infection to yourself and your baby.

Studies show that the chance of developing an infection is low if the baby is delivered within four days of your waters breaking. At York Hospital induction of labour can be offered immediately or as soon as labour ward are able to facilitate or from 18 – 24 hours after your waters have broken. This is because it may take a few days for labour to establish from beginning the induction process. This will be discussed with you once we have confirmed your waters have broken.

Your baby will be closely monitored in labour and following the birth if your waters have been broken for longer than 18 hours. This is to monitor for any signs of infection and for this it would be recommended that you and your baby remain in hospital for 24 hours following the birth.
What happens next?

It is safe for you to go home after your waters have broken, to wait for your labour to start.

You may find that you are not at home for a long time before you start contracting regularly and need to return to the hospital. Or you may remain at home until you have agreed with your midwife to return to the hospital for your labour to be induced.

Your midwife may advise you to remain and mobilise around the hospital if you are already having regular contractions.
What do I need to do at home?

- Monitor the colour of your waters. Your waters should be clear/pink coloured.

- Monitor your temperature every 4 hours whilst you are awake. Your midwife will give you some thermometers to take home.

- Monitor your baby’s movements. Your baby should continue to move as normal once your waters have broken and when you are having contractions.

- You can eat and drink as normal. It is really important that you drink plenty to remain hydrated.

- You can have a bath or shower with plain water. Do not add any bubble bath or oils to the water.

- Avoid sexual intercourse.

- Remain as active as possible; this will encourage your contractions to start.
When do I need to contact the hospital?

- When you are having regular, painful contractions.
- If your water’s change colour. Your waters should be clear/pink coloured. Contact the hospital if your waters are green or brown coloured, or if you are bleeding.
- If your waters have an unpleasant smell.
- If your temperature is above 37.2°C.
- If you feel unwell.
- If you are worried about your baby’s movements.
- If you have constant severe abdominal pain.
- If you have any other concerns or questions.
Contact numbers

If you are contracting us regularly or have any concerns contact:

York: 01904 725924
Scarborough: 01723 342124

To arrange to come in for your induction of labour:

York Antenatal Ward: 01904 726003
Scarborough Labour Ward: 01723 342124
Supervisors of Midwives

Supervisors of Midwives are midwives who have undertaken additional training, whose aim is to give guidance and support to both midwives and women to ensure that the care offered is right for you and is given in the right place, by the right person and that it will benefit you and your baby (NMC 2009).

Supervisors of Midwives are available to discuss any aspect of your maternity care that may be of concern to you. You can contact us by phoning:

York: 01904 631313 or 01904 726004
Scarborough: 01723 368111 or 01723 342124

Please ask for the Supervisor of Midwives ‘on call’.

Find us on Facebook

Like our page and leave your comments
Search for ‘York & Scarborough Bumps 2 Babies’
Tell us what you think

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact Maternity Services Patient Information Group, c/o Patient Leaflet Team, Risk and Legal Services, Groves Chapel, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE, telephone 01904 721045 or 725230 or email us at patient.information2@york.nhs.uk.

Teaching, Training and Research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of staff and improve health and healthcare in our community. Staff or students in training may attend consultations for this purpose. You can opt-out if you do not want trainees to attend. Staff may also ask you to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Patients, relatives and carers sometimes need to turn to someone for help, advice or support. Our PALS team is here for you.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or via email at pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

safe, effective and sustainable healthcare within our communities
Providing care together
in York, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Malton, Selby and Easingwold

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format
如果你要求本資訊是以不同的語言或版式提供，請致電或寫電郵
Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail
Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

☎ 01904 725566
email: access@york.nhs.uk

Braille Audio e.g. CD
Large print Electronic

Owner Maternity Services Patient Information Group
Date first issued March 2010
Review Date November 2018
Version 4 (issued December 2016)
Approved by Maternity Guidelines Group
Document Reference PIL 566 v4

© 2016 York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk