

Emergency Department QRG:

Testing and Disposition Options after a Spontaneous Pregnancy Loss or Termination of Pregnancy

Audience: Emergency Department staff

Island Health is committed to supporting people who are experiencing spontaneous pregnancy loss or termination of pregnancy in their choices about testing and disposition.

Please provide a private space to a patient experiencing a loss, if possible.

Counsel about testing options:

- No testing required if you have examined the tissue and are certain that this is normal pregnancy tissue
- Offer histopathology in case of spontaneous loss or if you think it is clinically indicated
- Consult the obstetrician on call if you are unsure about testing options or if you think testing beyond histopathology might be recommended, such as cytogenetic in case of recurrent loss
- Always** consult the obstetrician in case of a second trimester pregnancy loss

Counsel about disposition options:

- hospital disposition of the products of conception
- taking home products of conception** (under 20+0 weeks gestation and under 500 gram and no signs of life) without or after testing
- depending on gestational age, usually after 14 weeks cremation** through a funeral home. Consult the OB on call to further explore
- Note that patients have the option to **transport** their **stillborn** (at 20+0 weeks gestation and over, or 500 gram and over and no signs of life). See the Island Health procedure “Release of Products of Conception or Stillborn to Patient” for specific requirements if transport of stillborn is requested. Consult with the OB on-call and social work

Appendix of Guideline: Surgical Management of Pregnancy Loss and Termination of Pregnancy



Preparing the tissue for transport:

To help **return pregnancy remains to patients** in a private, respectful, and caring way, we ask that you place the tissue into a sealed leak-proof container and place it inside a handmade cloth bag if available

- Refer to Release of Products of Conception or Stillborn to Patient Appendix D: Suggested Packing List for the Release of Products of Conception or Stillborn for Transport for further information

For more information including requisitions and consent forms:

Please see Island Health intranet for:

1. Guideline for surgical management of pregnancy loss and termination of pregnancy
<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/pnp/pnpdocs/4-7-13PR.pdf#search=release%20of%20products%20of%20con...>
2. Procedure “Release of Products of Conception or stillborn to patient” which includes a complete packing list with handouts for both patient and staff
(<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/pnp/pnpdocs/4-7-10G.pdf#search=guideline%20for%20surgical%20management>)