

# Misoprostol Patient Information



The Portland Hospital  
for Women and Children

## What is Misoprostol and what is it used for?

Misoprostol, an E1 prostaglandin analogue, is approved for the treatment of gastric ulcers. There is evidence supporting its safe and effective use in the management of pregnancy loss.

## Administration of Misoprostol

Misoprostol is available in **tablets** of 200µg (micrograms) strength. The dose will be decided by your Consultant. It may be prescribed orally or vaginally and may need to be repeated.

If you are administering it vaginally, it is recommended that you first of all wash your hands, lie on your back with your knees up and insert the tablet(s) high into the vagina.

## Expectations following administration

The onset of symptoms following administration of the Misoprostol tablets may vary. Sometimes effects may be experienced within 30 minutes.

Effects can be vaginal bleeding (which may be heavier and longer than a normal period and is recommended that you wear a sanitary pad. Tampons are not recommended), abdominal pain (if this occurs, take pain relief medication), diarrhoea, shivering/ fever, flatulence, nausea and vomiting.

It is therefore advised that the medication is taken in a safe environment.

## Dealing with Fetal Remains

It is usual to pass some tissue and blood clots. These are usually passed into the toilet but may appear on your sanitary pad. How this is disposed of is up to the individual. However should you require further information on burial regulations you should contact your local council.

## Follow-up appointment

Your Consultant will ask for you to return for a follow-up appointment/ scan within 1-2 weeks. Please ensure that this is arranged.

## Who to contact with any problems

Your Consultant will have discussed with you all aspects of your pregnancy loss including the use of Misoprostol. Do not hesitate to contact them if you have any concerns.

## Dealing with bereavement

We understand the sensitivity involved in pregnancy loss and wish to minimise any anxiety throughout this experience. Should you require further assistance you may find the following contact details useful:

The Miscarriage Association  
C/O Clayton Hospital  
Northgate  
Wakefield  
West Yorkshire WF1 3JS  
T: 01924 200799  
[Miscarriageassociation@care4free.net](mailto:Miscarriageassociation@care4free.net)

## References

British National Formulary

Portland Hospital Policy: Use of Misoprostol in spontaneous and incomplete miscarriage (4-12weeks).

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