

Early Pregnancy Loss

Please accept our genuine sympathy for your loss today. The following is information on miscarriage that we hope you find helpful. This information includes a list of choices you have for the disposition of the fetal remains. You will receive a copy of this form today to take home with you.

What is miscarriage?

Miscarriage is the loss of a pregnancy without obvious cause before the 20th week of pregnancy. About 15 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage. The actual number is probably much higher because many miscarriages occur so early in pregnancy that women do not even know they were pregnant.

What causes miscarriages?

Most miscarriages occur because the fetus is not developing normally. Problems with the fetus's genes or chromosomes are typically the result of random errors that occur by chance as the embryo divides and grows. In a few cases, a mother's health condition such as uncontrolled diabetes, thyroid disease, infections, blood-clotting disorders or problems with the uterus and cervix may lead to miscarriage.

Routine activities such as exercising, having sex, working or lifting heavy objects can not provoke a miscarriage. Nausea and vomiting in early pregnancy, even if it's severe, won't cause a miscarriage. A fall or other injury is unlikely to cause a miscarriage, unless the injury is serious enough to threaten your own life.

If you have experienced multiple miscarriages, (usually 3 or more) contact your physician and consider testing to identify any underlying causes, such as uterine abnormalities, immune system problems or hormone imbalances. If the cause of your miscarriages can't be identified, don't lose hope. Even without treatment, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists reports that about 60-70 percent of women with repeated miscarriages go on to have successful pregnancies.

What happens to the fetal remains?

Fetal tissue passed during a miscarriage in a hospital is often sent to a pathology laboratory to be examined. This examination usually determines whether or not fetal tissue was identified. An examination and description of the fetal tissue is completed by a pathologist. Usually this is the only testing that is necessary because most miscarriages occur due to a random cause not something that is likely to be reoccurring. This general pathology examination is not an autopsy or genetic study to determine cause of death. After the routine pathology examination has taken place the fetal tissue is decontaminated and cremated under the customary terms and conditions required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Can I bury or cremate the fetal remains?

Yes. A cemetery or funeral home usually cannot bury or cremate fetal remains without a permit which requires a Certificate of Fetal Death per Senate Bill 175, The Grieving Parents Act. You may apply for a Certificate of Fetal Death at your local registrar of vital statistics. Your funeral home often can assist you with obtaining this certificate. In Seneca County, vital statistics is located at the Seneca County Health Department, 71 S. Washington Street, Suite 1102. Their phone number is 419-447-3691 or in Fostoria at 419-435-4401. You may make contact via the internet at www.senecahealthdept.org.

Below are options for your consideration. Please indicate your wishes by selecting one of the following:

I want Mercy Tiffin Hospital to arrange for the disposition of the fetal tissue remains under the terms and conditions set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Decontamination and cremation via the laboratory)

I want to arrange personally for the burial or cremation of the fetal remains with a licensed funeral director. I would like Mercy Hospital of Tiffin to transfer the fetal tissue remains to the funeral home I designate. I understand that I may choose to have a funeral service. I understand that a Certificate of Fetal Death from the local registrar of vial statistics needs to be obtained and I understand that I am responsible for all expenses incurred.

Other: _____

If you do not specify a choice, Mercy Hospital of Tiffin is authorized by law to arrange for the disposition of fetal remains under the terms and conditions set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency. If you do choose to use a funeral home or bury the fetal tissue, the pathological exam may take a few days. Please check with the laboratory as to when the tissue will be released before making funeral or burial arrangements.

**This certifies that _____, was
pregnant and suffered a _____, _____
miscarriage that resulted in fetal death on _____.
Patient's Name
Date**

Patient's Signature:	Physician's Signature:	Date
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<p>1 Original in patient chart 1 Copy to patient 1 Copy to cemetery 1 Copy to pathology with tissue specimen</p>	<p>Nurses signature & date:</p>
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**DOCUMENTATION OF FETAL DEATH
LESS THAN 20 WEEKS GESTATION**

Laboratory- Please follow the wishes of the mother as stated above.

Funeral home is _____ . Please notify the funeral home when pathology is completed and remains can be released.

Released to _____ . Signature of receiver _____
Please print

Witness _____ Date and Time _____