

UNITY SEXUAL HEALTH ABORTION CARE PATHWAY

SETTING	Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS), Marie Stopes International (MSI) and British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)
FOR STAFF	All clinical and admin staff involved in the abortion pathway in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester (BNSSG)
PATIENTS	Pregnant women accessing Unity Sexual Health for pregnancy advice.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

ELIGIBILITY

Any woman who is registered with or eligible to register with a GP in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire is eligible for a NHS funded abortion.

Please note- This description does not cover the pathway for abortion care where fetal abnormality is the indication.

Abortion (under category C of the abortion act) is legal in England up to 24 weeks gestation, an abortion procedure can be undertaken in BNSSG up to 18 weeks but beyond that out of area referral will be required see below.

REFERRAL

Women may self-refer or can be referred by a friend, family member or a healthcare professional.

All first appointments are booked via the Central Booking Service. This service is provided by Marie Stopes International (MSI) - **0345 8725435**

Women should be offered an appointment for an assessment within 5 working days for either a telephone consultation or a face to face appointment.

ASSESSMENT

Women will be seen at either:

PAS

Central Health Clinic, Tower Hill, Bristol BS2 0JD

MSI

Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8TT

BPAS

Weston General Hospital, Weston Super Mare BS23 4TQ

Children under the age of 16 will be seen **only** in PAS where they will be assessed by two clinicians. They will be referred for treatment at an NHS hospital as appropriate or in some exceptions to MSI or BPAS.

Women seen at PAS

Can be booked into the following procedures:

- Early Medical Abortion at home (EMA) with immediate discharge (16 years and over)
 - **PAS** up to and including 9 weeks and 6 days
 - **MSI** up to and including 9 weeks 3 days

- **BPAS** up to and including 9 weeks and 6 days
- Early Medical Abortion in hospital
 - **St Michael's Hospital** up to and including 10 weeks
- Late Medical Abortion
 - **St Michael's Hospital** from 10 weeks 1 day up to 18 weeks.
- Vacuum Aspiration Abortion under general anaesthetic:
 - **Southmead Hospital** from 7 weeks up to and including 14 weeks
 - **St Michael's Hospital** from 7 weeks up to and including 12 weeks
 - **MSI** from as soon as an intra uterine pregnancy is confirmed (i.e. yolk sac is visible on ultra sound scan) up to and including 18 weeks
- Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) under local anaesthetic (LA) or conscious sedation (CS)
 - **MSI/BPAS** from as soon as an intra uterine pregnancy is confirmed (i.e. yolk sac is visible on ultra sound scan) up to and including 14 weeks

PAS staff should use the Central Booking Service number **0345 8725435** when booking women for a procedure at MSI and phone **0345 7304030** to book women into **BPAS**

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

MSI and BPAS

Telephone consultation- women will be given a choice of where they would like their procedure i.e. PAS, MSI or BPAS

Face to face consultation-women will usually have the procedure at the service they attend for assessment. However, they may subsequently choose to attend PAS or this may be indicated by pre-existing medical conditions.

Southmead/St Michaels Hospital

Bloods (venepuncture) will be taken for group and save (G&S) and haemoglobin(Hb).MRSA swab and consent will be taken at PAS prior to admission to hospital

MSI Bristol

Patients will have a finger prick blood test (Hb and rhesus status) and consent on the day of procedure by MSI staff

BPAS

Patients will have a finger prick blood test (Hb and rhesus status) and consent on the day of procedure by BPAS staff

STI testing- All women will be routinely screened for chlamydia and gonorrhoea and either offered screening for HIV and Syphilis or directed to another service as appropriate

PROCEDURES FOR WOMEN WHO REQUIRE AN OUT OF AREA REFERRAL

Gestation between 18 to 23 + 6 weeks – for medical or surgical procedure

Women can be referred to either - **MSI 0345 8725435** or
- **BPAS 0345 7304030**

Kings College Hospital London or **Homerton Hospital** should only be used where the independent sector **BPAS** or **MSI** cannot perform the procedure due to pre-existing medical

conditions. They can perform surgical procedures up to 23+6 weeks. Please contact as follows:
Kings College Hospital London : 0203 2999000 ext 35010
Homerton Hospital-email Tracey Masters on huh-tr.Homertonabortioncareservice@nhs.net

Patient information leaflets for out of area clinics and procedures are available.

Table A

REFERENCES	
RELATED DOCUMENTS AND PAGES	
AUTHORISING BODY	Unity Clinical Guidelines Group April 2019
SAFETY	No issues identified
QUERIES AND CONTACT	QUERIES Contact PAS Consultants Dr Manika Singh, Dr Sharon Moses or lead Nurse Alison Hines 0117 3426824.