Managing Miscarriage Tissue

We are sorry for your loss. Following a miscarriage, you have options for how the tissue is cared for. We treat all miscarriage tissue with the utmost respect. You may choose to manage this at home, in the hospital, or in the clinic, depending on what is most comfortable or appropriate for you.

Miscarriage at Home

If you have a miscarriage at home, you can:

1. **Dispose of the tissue on your own.** You can dispose of the tissue in the toilet or bury at home. Another option is that you can contact your local funeral home for cremation.
2. **Collect the tissue at home.** You can collect the tissue and take the tissue to the clinic for further testing. Refer to the collecting tissue directions on the other side.
3. **Bury tissue during the annual early pregnancy loss memorial at Roselawn Memorial Park.** You can still choose this option with or without testing. Bring your tissue to your OB clinic where you have received obstetrical care. The tissue will be buried with tissue from others who had a miscarriage.

Miscarriage in Clinic or Hospital

If your miscarriage happens in the clinic or hospital, the tissue will be sent to the pathology lab to be looked at. After the lab is done, you can choose to have the tissue:

1. **Disposed of by the hospital.** The tissue is disposed of respectfully along with other tissue. This is done through a process like cremation.
2. **Returned to you.** There may not be any tissue to return to you after the lab evaluation.
3. **Bury tissue during the annual early pregnancy loss memorial at Roselawn Memorial Park**.
4. **Tissue can be released to a funeral home of your choice.** You would need to arrange for this service with the funeral home.

Memorial Service

The early pregnancy loss memorial service is on the first Wednesday of October at 10 am.

Location
Roselawn Memorial Park
401 Femrite Drive
Monona, WI

Collecting Tissue

Supplies

If you choose to collect tissue, you will be given a collection kit from your care team. The kit includes:

- Plastic container with a screw top
- Sterile saline solution
- Plastic resealable bag
- Toilet "hat" collection bin
- Absorbent pad
- Gloves

If you are missing any of the above items, please contact your clinic.

How to Collect

- You may notice heavy bleeding during your miscarriage. Use a pad instead of a tampon.
- Use the toilet hat on the toilet bowl.
- Pregnancy tissue can look like a blood clot.
- Collect the most solid looking tissue or blood clot. Use gloves to handle the tissue. Place the tissue in the plastic container with the screw top. Pour sterile saline solution into the container until the tissue is completely covered. **Do not** overfill.
- Screw the cap on tight and place the container into the plastic resealable bag.
- Store the container inside the fridge until you can drop it off. If you choose to do tissue analysis, we advise to drop off at your OB clinic within one business day.
- A staff member will meet with you to confirm your plans for the tissue. They will have you sign a consent form and answer any questions.

Pathology Evaluation

You have the option for the tissue to be examined by the lab. Our pathology lab team examines the tissue under a microscope. You can also have genetic analysis performed on the tissue. We would look for a genetic cause of the miscarriage. Most of the time when tissue is collected at home, there is not enough tissue for an analysis.

Insurance

There is a fee for each of these tests. Check with your insurance for cost. Some insurance plans will not cover genetic testing. If you are interested in testing, discuss with your provider. They can place an order for the testing.

Who to Call

Again, we are sorry for your loss. If you have questions or need support, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, visit www.uwhealth.org/

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2025 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8296.