

## **Taking Your Baby Home – Parent Guidance**

Taking your baby home after they have died will allow you an opportunity to spend more time with your baby with the support of family and friends and to say goodbye in your own environment.

It is important that you feel supported at this time and know who to contact should you require additional support or information. This guidance will provide you with advice on caring for your baby during this time.

### **Leaving the Hospital**

Before leaving the hospital you will be given a 'Parent letter' supporting your decision to take your baby home. This letter identifies:

- Your contact Midwife/Nurse
- Confirmation that Police Scotland are aware of your decision to take your baby home (Incident Number)
- Details for returning your baby (Hospital Mortuary or Funeral Director)

### **Safe Transportation**

It is important that your baby is transported in a safe and dignified manner. Transport can be undertaken by yourself, a family member or a friend by car, or by your chosen Funeral Director.

We would recommend use of an appropriate infant car seat or Moses basket secured within your vehicle.

### **Care at home**

- We advise you to keep your baby cool at home (however do not have windows open or fresh flowers in the room in order to minimise the risk of exposure to insects).
- We would also advise that pets are kept out of the baby's room.
- The use of the (Flexmort) Cuddle Cot will quietly cool your baby, to slow down the expected physical changes which happen following death. These include: changes to your baby's skin colour, the condition of their skin and possible leakage of body fluids or odour.
- You may care for and handle your baby as you wish at home including bathing and dressing, however over handling may increase the speed of the changes outlined above. Therefore, ideally your baby should be kept in contact with the Cuddle Cot as much as possible.
- We would encourage you to contact a Funeral Director as soon as possible so that you can make arrangements to have your baby collected from home, when you feel the time is right.

## **Legal Responsibilities**

It is important that you understand that it is your responsibility to register your baby's death within 8 days, and taking your baby home should not delay this process. You need to contact your local registration office to make an appointment to do this.

## **Changing your mind**

We recognise that circumstances and feelings change, and you may decide that having your baby at home is no longer the best thing for you as a family. If this happens the best place for the ongoing care of your baby is with the Funeral Director and not returning to the hospital, unless your baby is having a post-mortem. The Funeral Directors will continue to allow you to visit your baby and support you as a family until the funeral.