

Pre-Labour Rupture of Membranes at Term

Why have I been given this leaflet?

You have been given this leaflet because your waters have broken before your labour has started. After you have been assessed in Triage and there are no concerns about you or your baby, you may go home to await the start of labour.

If you feel unwell or have any signs of infection (fever, shivering, aching), you should inform maternity triage. You will also need to report any changes in the colour of your vaginal loss and any reduction in your baby's movements.

What happens next?

If labour does not start naturally, you will come back to the antenatal ward in 24 hours for possible induction of labour.

This will include examination of your cervix (neck of the womb) to assess if you would benefit from prostaglandin gel induction, prior to an Intravenous Oxytocin infusion (a hormone that will start contractions). Your baby will be monitored and your observations taken. When you are in labour, you will be offered continuous monitoring of your baby.

If you develop a temperature or become unwell at any time, you will be offered intravenous antibiotics (to prevent possible infection to baby). You will also be offered intravenous antibiotics if you have been found to have Haemolytic Group B Streptococcus infection during your pregnancy.

The risk of serious infection affecting your baby is 1% compared to 0.5% where the waters are intact. Therefore, it is our recommendation that you are induced after 24 hours from your waters breaking. During this time, 60% of women will go into labour on their own.

What happens after baby is born?

After your baby is born, you can expect to remain in hospital for 12-24 hours whilst your baby is observed for signs of possible infection. This may be longer if you go on to develop a temperature, become unwell during your labour or there are any other concerns.

Report any changes or concerns to Maternity Triage on 0161 291 2724

Your waters broke on: _____ at: _____

If you do not go into labour and do not need to attend Triage for any reason, please report to the Antenatal Ward C3 on: _____ at: _____ for induction.

Ward Telephone number: 0161 291 2963

