

Information Leaflet



Liverpool Women's
NHS Foundation Trust

Patients presenting to the Gynaecology Emergency Department (GED) with problems related to their Intrauterine Device (IUD)

We have given you this leaflet because you have presented to the Gynae Emergency Department with a problem related to your intrauterine device (IUD).

After assessment by our emergency team, we have asked you to self-refer to your local sexual health service or GP.

We work together with local sexual health services and GP's across Liverpool because they are much better equipped at managing problems with the IUD which don't require emergency care in hospital.

We will notify your GP that you have attended the department today and that you may attend their service for assessment.

Who is the Gynaecology Emergency Department for?

The Gynaecology Emergency Department is for people who need emergency treatment for serious or life-threatening gynaecology or early pregnancy problems.

This includes situations like:

- Severe tummy pain requiring emergency surgery
- Heavy vaginal bleeding that requires a blood transfusion or emergency surgery
- Severe tummy or vaginal infections requiring antibiotics through a drip

There are often long waits to see a Doctor or specialist Nurse. This is because we must prioritise patients who require emergency care first.

Where can I get help with my IUD?

Sexual Health Services

Your local sexual health service has a team of Doctors and Nurses who specialise in contraception, including the IUD. They will be able to perform a wide range of tests and offer alternative forms of contraception on the same day as your assessment.

Axess sexual health is available to patients living in Merseyside or Cheshire. You can make an appointment yourself or attend their walk-in service for a consultation.

To make an appointment at any Axess clinic, visit www.axess.clinic or phone 0300 323 1300.

Axess Sexual Health at The Royal Liverpool Hospital

Linda McCartney Centre
Accessible via Mount Vernon Street (off Prescott Street)
Liverpool, L7 8YE

Axess Sexual Health at The Beat

6 David Lewis Street
Liverpool, L1 4AP

Axess Sexual Health South Liverpool Treatment Centre (Garston)

32 Church Road
Garston
Liverpool, L19 2LW

There are also Axess Clinics at other locations around Merseyside and Cheshire:

- Huyton
- Kirkby
- Macclesfield
- Crewe
- Warrington
- Runcorn
- Widnes
- Wirral

For clinic opening hours and for more information visit www.axess.clinic

General Practice

If your IUD was fitted by a GP or other community clinic, or was fitted for reasons other than contraception, these services may be able to help you with your symptoms and offer removal of the device.

If you decide to attend a GP surgery that did not fit your IUD, it is important to check that they have a service that can manage problems with the IUD. This is because some surgeries do not have the staff or equipment required.

Where can I get help with my IUD?

NHS 111

If you need same day urgent care or aren't sure which service is the best option for you, contact NHS 111. They will be able to advise you the best service for the treatment you need.

The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from mobile phones and landlines. In an emergency, you should ring 999.

What should I do while I wait?

It is very important you use a condom or an alternative method of contraception while you wait to be seen.

If the IUD is not in the correct position, it cannot be relied upon for contraception and you may be at risk of pregnancy. If there is a pregnancy risk at the time of your review, this may delay removal of your IUD.

I am waiting for a Gynaecology clinic, surgery or procedure appointment, where can I find more information?

The Liverpool Women's Access Centre will be able to update you on your appointment if:

- Your GP has referred you to Gynaecology but you are still waiting to be seen
- You have been seen by our Gynaecology service and are still receiving treatment or waiting for an operation
- You have been discharged to Patient Initiated Follow Up (PIFU)

Please call the Gynaecology Access Centre on 0151 702 4328 (and select option 3), for more information.

Please note, if you have not been referred to Gynaecology or you have been discharged without Patient Initiated Follow Up (PIFU), you will need to see your GP.

When should I come back to the Gynaecology Emergency Department?

If you develop any of the following symptoms while your IUD remains in place, please attend the Gynaecology Emergency Department as soon as possible:

- You have a positive pregnancy test
- Severe pelvic or abdominal pain, not relieved by pain relief such as paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Heavy bleeding (soaking through 3 or more sanitary pads per hour)
- Running a high temperature or feeling feverish

If you develop any symptoms not listed above, you should see your local sexual health service, GP or attend your nearest A&E if they are severe.

How to find us:

Gynaecology Emergency Department (GED)

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Crown Street, Liverpool
L8 7SS

Telephone: 0151 708 9988

This leaflet can be formally translated on request via our Patient Experience Team, although response times to have information translated can vary. To request formal translation services or if you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Crown Street
Liverpool
L8 7SS

Tel: 0151 708 9988

Issue Date: 30/04/2025

Reference: Gyn_2025-399-V1

Review Date: 30/04/2028

© Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust