



## Recommendations for Emergency Departments

*Helpful tips for ER/ED on miscarriage and stillbirth.*

### ♥ MAKE A CHECKLIST

**Have a checklist of what staff is responsible for.** Knowing exactly what their responsibilities are relieves staff stress as far as their legal responsibilities, and allows them to better focus on the needs of the patient.

Staff should know exactly what their responsibilities are regarding:

- 1) obtaining the products of conception properly,
- 2) procedures for containment,
- 3) paperwork, and
- 4) delivery to the lab

If you use the Rachel's Gift **miscarriage resource** (described below under keepsake) make sure the location of the resource is communicated and is on said checklist so staff members don't forget to give one to the patient with the rest of their discharge paperwork.

### ♥ TERMINOLOGY PRECAUTIONS

**Be cautious of using medical terms in front of the patient and family.** Consider using the term "miscarriage" instead of "spontaneous abortion." Consider "stillbirth" instead of "fetal demise." The wrong words can cause further trauma.

### ♥ UTILIZE COLLEAGUES

**Utilize Labor & Delivery staff and/or Chaplain staff.** Attempt to get someone from Labor & Delivery involved as they have resources and have had training on interaction and care for patient and baby. They are aware they have been asked to be a resource for you and are willing to help you better care for the patient.

### ♥ HONOR THE BODY

It may be considered "products of conception," but to your patient, this was their child. **Do not put in hazardous waste bag or metal container.** Wrap in a blanket and get someone from Labor and Delivery involved.

### ♥ ACKNOWLEDGE THE LOSS

**Say, "I'm so sorry for your loss."** Do not avoid the fact they have lost a child they were expecting. No more than that is necessary - just an acknowledgement.

### ♥ PROVIDE A KEEPSAKE

**Give moms, at the very least, a miscarriage card (produced by Rachel's Gift) with their paperwork.** This acknowledges their loss and gives them a place to go after they are home if they need further assistance. You can order these by emailing [rachelsgift@icloud.com](mailto:rachelsgift@icloud.com).

*This information provided by the Education Department of Rachel's Gift, Inc. For more information, please contact [rgeducation@icloud.com](mailto:rgeducation@icloud.com).*