This guideline must be read in conjunction with the Department of Health WA:

- Mandatory Policy 0129/20: Release of Human Tissue and Explanted Medical Devices Policy and
- Guideline for the Release of a Human Fetus or Placenta
- Patient Information Sheet and Consent Form - Authorisation and Release of a Human Fetus or Placenta

KEMH specific information

1. Check if placenta is not to be released:
   - See Indications for Pathological Examination of a Placenta guideline
   - See ‘Exclusion Criteria’ in section 3.3 in MP 0129/20

2. Requests to release a placenta should be discussed with the midwife, obstetrician and operating room staff prior to the birth or operative procedure when possible.

3. The placenta should be taken home on the day of birth. Short term storage is not available at KEMH.

4. Where no request to remove the placenta from the hospital is received, the placenta will be disposed of as per PSS processes, unless it is sent for formal pathological examination in which case it will be retained as per PathWest protocols.

5. There is currently inadequate data to support claims that placentophagy (ingestion of the placenta) has any health benefits, and due to potential infectious risks\(^1\), women are discouraged from placental consumption.\(^2\)
### References


### Related policies, procedures and guidelines

Department of Health Western Australia:
- MP 0129/20: [Release of Human Tissue and Explanted Medical Devices Policy](#)
- Guideline for the Release of a Human Fetus or Placenta

### Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

- KEMH Clinical Guideline: Obstetrics & Gynaecology: [Labour: Indications for Pathological Examination of a Placenta](#)

### Useful resources (including related forms)

- Department of Health Western Australia: [Patient Information Sheet and Consent Form - Authorisation and Release of a Human Fetus or Placenta](#)

---

**Keywords:** placenta, taking the placenta home, handling of placenta, maternal request for placenta, release of human tissue, MR 355.10

**Document owner:** Obstetrics & Gynaecology Directorate (OGD)

**Author / Reviewer:** O&G Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines

**Date first issued:** 01/2004

**Reviewed dates:** (since July 2017) 04/07/17; April 2020

**Next review date:** April 2023

**Endorsed by:** Obstetrics & Gynaecology Directorate Management Committee [OOS by Medical and Midwifery Co-Directors]

**Date:** 28/04/2020

**NSQHS Standards (v2) applicable:** 1 Governance, 2 Partnering Consumers, 3 Preventing and Controlling Infection, 5 Comprehensive Care, 6 Communicating (incl)

**Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from the WNHS website.**

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2020