The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm or call 0121 371 4323.

Accident and Emergency
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 2GW
Telephone: 0121 627 2000

To see all of our current patient information leaflets please visit www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm
Whilst we understand that this may be an anxious time for you, vaginal bleeding is common in early pregnancy and does not always mean there is a problem.

**There are a number of causes of bleeding in early pregnancy, which include:**

Spotting or bleeding may occur shortly after conception. This is known as an implantation bleed. It is caused by the fertilised egg embedding itself in the lining of the womb. This bleeding is often mistaken for a period as it may occur around the time your period is due.

Hormonal bleeding is when some women experience a light bleed at around four to eight weeks of pregnancy or around the time their period would have been due. This can be very confusing for women who are pregnant and is the reason many women do not realise they are pregnant for a while. Again, it is very common. This usually settles around 13 weeks of pregnancy as by this time the placenta is sufficiently developed to produce all of the hormones needed to sustain the pregnancy.

After the egg is fertilised, it then goes on to implant itself into the lining of the womb (uterus). Sometimes this results in a little bleeding that shows up on an early scan as a haematoma. This isn’t anything to worry about. When it happens, you may notice a small amount of vaginal bleeding, but this is not necessarily always the case.

However, bleeding can be a warning sign of a miscarriage – currently as many as one in four early pregnancies end in miscarriage – often before your next period would have been due. A miscarriage is very uncommon after the third month of pregnancy.

It is likely that you will be referred to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) at the Birmingham Women’s Hospital, who may perform a scan however a heartbeat can only be detected in normal pregnancies after approximately six weeks from the date of your last period. It may be that a repeat scan will be offered at a stage when a heartbeat will be seen.

Please bear with us at this anxious time as you may have to repeat information you have given to several people. This is so that we are able to ensure we give you the best care possible.

Please use the space below to write down any questions you may have and bring this with you to your next appointment.