

Appendix 3 – Information for Women: advice when deciding to have Placental Encapsulation

This information is intended to guide women who choose to take their placentas home for consumption (via encapsulation) for personal, spiritual or cultural reasons.

1. If you chooses to employ a placental encapsulation company we advise that you ensure the company is registered as a food business with the local environmental health office and has a food hygiene rating as Placenta service providers are now regulated by the Foods Standard Agency .
2. If there is a plan to take the placenta for consumption, such as encapsulation, you must tell your midwife before the birth.
3. A placenta provides a perfect environment for micro-organisms to grow. In order to reduce the risk of spreading infections the company should provide a chiller pack containing everything needed for safe storage of the placenta.
4. Once born, the midwife handles the placenta with sterile gloves and places it as soon as possible into the chiller pack.
5. If there are any placental remains from the encapsulation process it must be treated as human tissue and buried.

Additional information:

If you are planning to bury your placenta remains please ask for the “Information for Women: Transport and Disposal (by Burial) of Placenta at home” leaflet for guidance. It explains some standard precautions to be aware of for your health and safety as well as others in your home as well as how to dispose of /bury your placenta in accordance with laws designed to protect public health.

We will ask you to sign the: *Release of human tissue (placenta and umbilical cord only)* form.