

Introduction

The death of a baby at any stage during pregnancy is a time of emotional and physical distress. At such a time, parents may need confident practical and religious guidance about what to do after their baby has been delivered.

This booklet provides religious guidance for Muslim people, following consultation within Bristol's Muslim Community. It has been approved by the Council of Bristol Mosques, working in partnership with the Hospital Trusts responsible for St Michael's Hospital (UHBW) and Southmead Hospital (NBT).

Additional practical guidance will be available from those who are providing care in the hospital.

This booklet is provided for guidance only and no responsibility can be taken by the Council for Bristol Mosques, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust or North Bristol NHS Trust for any outcomes that result from following this guidance.



The information in this booklet has been compiled by Abdul Tariq & the Council of Bristol Mosques in partnership with the NHS.



People who can help

People in hospitals

St Michael's Hospital Chaplains:
0117 342 6799
Southmead Hospital Chaplains:
0117 323 5447

People in the community

Abdul Tariq: **07802 480 718**

The Register Office

Register Office (for appointments):
0117 922 2800

Cemeteries

The Meadows of Peace
(Bristol Muslim Cemetery)
South Bristol Cemetery
South Gloucestershire Cemeteries
Please contact a funeral director to discuss cemetery requests.

Local Muslim Funeral Directors

Ruksana Aslam: **07941 360 223**
Shahid Akram: **07831 663 730**

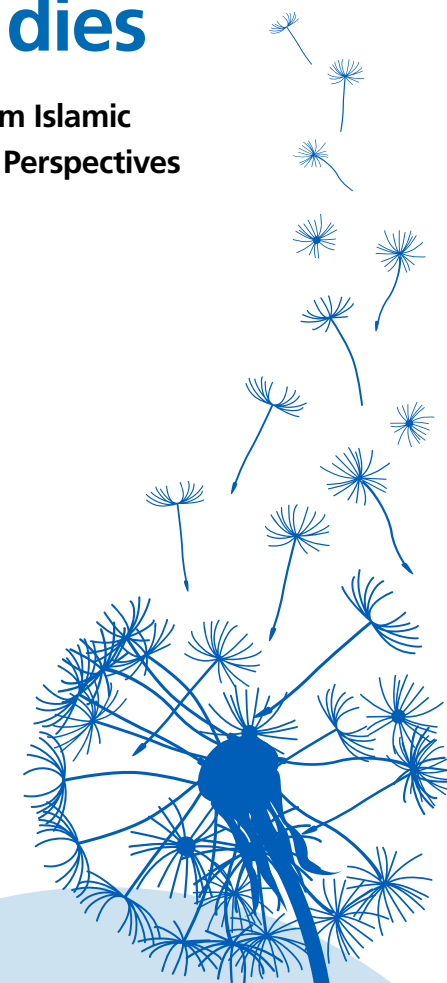
Healthier Together

Improving health and care in Bristol,
North Somerset and South Gloucestershire



When a Muslim baby dies

Guidance from Islamic and Hospital Perspectives



Better together services provided by:
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston
NHS Foundation Trust
North Bristol
NHS Trust

What must I do after my baby has been delivered?

Circumstances	Ritual Practice	General Islamic Thought
1. The baby has died within the mother's womb <u>or</u> does not show any signs of life at delivery <u>and</u> is less than 17 weeks gestational age.	• Baby must be wrapped in clean fabric	✓
	• Baby must be buried	✓
2. The baby has died within the mother's womb <u>or</u> does not show any signs of life at delivery <u>and</u> is between 17 weeks and 24 weeks gestational age. OR 3. The baby has died within the mother's womb <u>or</u> does not show any signs of life at delivery <u>and</u> is delivered after completion of the 24th week of gestation (Stillborn).	• Baby must be named	✓
	• Baby must be bathed	See note 2
	• Ghusl of baby is required	
	• Baby must be wrapped in clean fabric	See note 2
	• Baby must be wrapped in shroud	
	• Funeral prayer required	See note 3
• Baby must be buried	✓	
4. Baby is delivered alive at any gestational age, dies in hospital without going home and the attending doctor provides a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. OR 5. Baby is delivered alive at any gestational age, dies in hospital without going home, the attending doctor is either uncertain of or unable to establish the cause of death and refers the baby's death to the Coroner. (See note 1).	• Baby must be named	✓
	• Ghusl of baby is required	✓
	• Baby must be wrapped in shroud	✓
	• Funeral prayer required	✓
	• Baby must be buried	✓

Note 1: If the Coroner instructs a post mortem examination, the ritual practices may not be carried out until after the Coroner has officially released the baby's body.

Note 2: Enquire within your own community about which of these two practices you need to follow from your religious perspective.

Note 3: Enquire within your own community about whether or not you need to follow this practice from your religious perspective.