Box 1

NICE recommendations for referral[5]

- Immediate referral to the EPU (or if not available, out of hours gynaecology services) for women who have a positive pregnancy test and are found on examination to have pain and abdominal tenderness, or pelvic tenderness, or cervical motion tenderness
- Referral to the EPU (or if not available, out of hours gynaecology services) for women with bleeding or other symptoms and signs of early pregnancy complications who have pain, or a gestation ≥ 6 weeks, or a pregnancy of uncertain gestation. The urgency of this referral will depend on the clinical situation
- Referral to the EPU (or if not available, out of hours gynaecology services) for women who return with worsening symptoms and signs that could suggest an ectopic pregnancy (immediately or within 24 hours depending on the clinical situation)
- Women who have had a previous ectopic pregnancy should be seen in the EPU at 5-6 weeks' gestation to exclude recurrence. They should be able to self-refer