Methotrexate is a medicine that may be used to treat an ectopic pregnancy. An ectopic pregnancy means that the fetus is in the fallopian tube rather than growing in the uterus. When this happens, the pregnancy cannot safely progress. As the fetus grows in the fallopian tube, the tube may rupture and cause more problems. Methotrexate is given to stop the growth of the fetus before it gets too large. If this is not done, the tube and fetus may need to be removed by surgery.

Methotrexate is given by injection. Because of the type of medicine, the nurse will be wearing a special type of gown and gloves when he or she gives it to you.

Expect some cramping – such as during your period – for three to four days after you receive the medication. You will also have some vaginal bleeding. If the cramping or bleeding is more severe than your normal period, call your doctor. You may also have some nausea and vomiting.

- Report to your doctor right away:
  - an increase in abdominal pain or vaginal bleeding
  - fever over 101°F (37.8°C) for more than 12 hours
  - any mouth sores that you get after your injection
- Do not resume sexual activity until your doctor has said you may.
- Do not drink alcohol.

Please ask if you would like to talk with a chaplain or nurse for support. You may also request other pamphlets about pregnancy loss.

- Do not take any medicines after your treatment without first checking with your doctor. This includes any over the counter medicines or herbal supplements. Do not take prenatal vitamins or folic acid supplements.
- Keep your follow up visit with your doctor as instructed. You will need to have blood work done several times to make certain the Methotrexate has worked. Sometimes more treatment is needed.