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Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

22nd July 2025

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Join today: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Perineal tears and obstetric practice 31.12.2023 - 01.01.2025

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

Name of Hospital / Unit	Kings Mill Hospital			
Address	Mansfield Road Sutton in Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL			
	Total	Primiparous	Multiparous	Don't Know
All Births	(registerable births 3532)	1078	2389	
Vaginal deliveries	1698 breech 10			
Forceps deliveries	170			
Ventouse deliveries	111			
Failed ventouse → Forceps deliveries				
Caesarean Section	1556			
Elective caesarean section	611			
Emergency caesarean Section	945			
Second degree tears	No epis 599 + epis 133			
Sutured second degree tears				
Episiotomies	364			
Third degree tears				
3a	No epis 36 + epis 8			
3b	No epis 19 + epis 7			
3c	No epis 8			
Fourth degree tears	+ epis 1			
Rectal buttonhole tear				
Type of Hospital/Unit? (please X or ✓)	Free-standing Midwifery Unit	Alongside Midwifery Unit	Obstetrician Led Labour Ward ✓	State Other:
How are third- and fourth-degree tears classified for data collection? (please X or ✓)				
3 rd degree tears	3 rd & 4 th degree tears separately	Grade 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 th degree ✓	Don't know	
Do you have a	Yes	No	Don't know	

designated perineal clinic				
If yes, is it (please X or ✓)	Midwifery led	Obstetrician led	State Other:	
<p>Please kindly provide names of perineal clinic leads and designation</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Contact Address</p> <p>Email:</p>	<p>Names, job titles and email addresses (other than that of our board of directors) constitute personal data.</p> <p>Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. In our view, disclosure of this information would breach the data protection principles contained in the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>In reaching this decision, we have particularly considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasonable expectations of the employees given their positions; Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust considered that none of the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would be disclosed; • The consequences of disclosure; and • any legitimate public interest in disclosure. <p>Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test.</p>			
If No, how are women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears followed up? (please X or ✓)				
Community midwives	GP	Hospital antenatal clinic	Others – Please state	<p>✓ Postnatal plan: review by senior medical team and pelvic health physiotherapists prior to discharge home. ANC appointment 12/52 postnatal with own consultant and review at 3-4</p>

				weeks PN with physio and at 6 weeks. See Guideline snippet below.
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Post-repair prescribing

- Prescribe antibiotics as per the Trust antibiotic website [ANTIBIOTIC GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY INFECTIONS](#)
- 7-10 days of regular paracetamol and ibuprofen
- 10 days of lactulose (bulk forming agents such as Fybogel should be avoided)
- Consider enoxaparin dependent on other risk factors

Post-repair management

- Women should be fully informed regarding the extent of the perineal trauma and advised regarding hygiene, analgesia, avoiding constipation and the importance of pelvic floor exercises.
- Women should be reviewed by the medical team prior to discharge.
- Physiotherapy referral for supervised pelvic floor exercises
- Women should be seen in the gynaecology clinic of their named consultant 12 weeks post-delivery.

Follow-up appointment

- Consultation should be conducted by a senior member of the medical team
- Specific questions should be asked about bowel habit, flatus and faecal incontinence and faecal urgency.
- The perineum should be examined.
- Women should be advised that 60–80% of women are asymptomatic 12 months following delivery and EAS repair.
- If symptomatic women should be referred to colorectal surgeons to consider endo-anal ultrasound and further management if necessary.
- Suspected pudendal nerve injury should be referred to Nottingham.
- Mode of delivery in next pregnancy should be discussed^{1,5,6}.

If asymptomatic there is no clear evidence on the best mode of delivery. 17-24% of women with a previous 3rd or 4th degree tear will experience worsening faecal symptoms after a second vaginal delivery. For most women this will be a transient worsening of flatus incontinence.

The role of prophylactic episiotomy in subsequent pregnancies is not known and therefore an episiotomy should only be performed if clinically indicated.

If symptomatic or if endoanal ultrasound has been abnormal caesarean section should be discussed to try to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms.

Do you have a designated women's health physiotherapist? (please X or ✓) ✓				
If yes, how many?	X2 0.6 Band 4 Therapy Assistant Practitioners. X1 0.8 B7 Physio, x4 Band 6 ranging from 0.4-1 WTE.			
If yes, when do they follow up women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears				
Antenatal	Postnatal	Ward prior to discharge ✓	Other- Please state ✓	<p>Pelvic health physios see the Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury (OASI) on the ward for initial contact PN and book in a follow up at 3-4 weeks and then again at 6 weeks as standard. Any further follow ups are patient specific.</p> <p>Pelvic health physios sometimes review OASI Antenatally in physio if they were a previous OASI and are pregnant again with significant pelvic floor dysfunction or other symptoms. They are then followed up with us as per above and with medics at around 12/52 PN.</p>

What maternity data system is used in your unit? (please X or ✓) ✓				
Epic	Terranova	Euro king	Cerner	Other: ✓ BadgerNet
Any further comments:	Under the terms of the Act, we do not need to provide an answer as this would mean creating new information and giving an opinion. This information is not held.			
Kindly provide the following details in case we need clarification.				
Your name:	Names, job titles and email addresses (other than that of our board of directors) constitute personal data.			
Contact details: Email address:	<p>Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. In our view, disclosure of this information would breach the data protection principles contained in the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>In reaching this decision, we have particularly considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasonable expectations of the employees given their positions; Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust considered that none of the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would be disclosed; • The consequences of disclosure; and • any legitimate public interest in disclosure. <p>Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test.</p>			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the

date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.