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27th October 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
Wound Care Practices

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 the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1a. What solution is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when a spontaneous vaginal delivery is imminent?	a. None			
1b. What solution is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when an instrumental delivery (e.g., forceps or vacuum) is planned or imminent?	b. None or chlorhexidine acetate 0.5%			
2. In the event of an episiotomy during a spontaneous vaginal birth, what cleansing solution is used immediately beforehand?	None			
3a. What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following a spontaneous vaginal birth?	None			
3b. What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following an instrumental vaginal birth?	None			
4. What cleansing solution is used after suturing is completed, and is this different following spontaneous or instrumental births?	None			
5. Does your Trust recommend or routinely use any specific topical product(s) (e.g., medical-grade honey, Flaminal, or similar) for the care of perineal trauma? If so, please specify the product(s) used and outline your policy (e.g., used for all women with perineal trauma, or only for women meeting certain clinical criteria).	We do use lavender compress but not as routine.			

6. Does your Trust routinely collect data on the number of women who are referred back into services due to perineal wound concerns (excluding routine OASI follow-up)?	Yes - we review this data through audit and incident review.			
7. If your Trust offers a perineal wound clinic, which products—if any—are recommended to support wound healing?	We do not use cleansing solutions as a rule - if the area needs cleansing, then usually water would be used			

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.