



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

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Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2024/10147

Date Received: 23rd September 2024

Response Due: 21st October 2024

Date: 17th October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 23rd September 2024, 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.

In your request you asked:

I would like to request the following information regarding clinical guidelines and the use of birthing pools/water immersion during labour and/or birth by women who had previously had a caesarean section:

Request Details Number of Women Using a Birthing Pool/Water Immersion Following a Previous Caesarean Section:

- Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth for each of the following time periods:**

Time Period	Labourled in Water	Delivered in Water
01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013	<5	0
01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014	0	0
01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015	0	0
01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016	<5	<5
01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017	0	0
01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018	<5	0
01 January 2019 - 31 December 2019	0	0
01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020	<5	0

01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021	<5	<5
01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022	<5	0
01 January 2023 - 31 December 2023	<5	<5

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

- a. **Clinical Guidelines: Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to: The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth. Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).**
Please see attached.
- b. **Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.**
Please see attached.
- c. **Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.**
Please see attached.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMJ, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111