

Ref. No: 1273  
Date: 15/10/24  
Subject: Maternity units

## REQUEST

I would like to request the following information about each maternity unit within your Trust:

- 1. What type of unit this is - delivery unit or birth centre. If birth centre, is this on the same site as a delivery unit or freestanding?**
- 2. For each individual year over the past 5 years, how many births were there in each setting? In each of those years, what was the number of spontaneous vaginal deliveries and c-sections (please stratify this by category of c-section)?**
- 3. Which of the following non-pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: water pool, TENS, hypnobirthing, aromatherapy, acupuncture, birth comb, sterile water injection**
- 4. In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above non-pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**
- 5. Which of the following pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, entonox, pethidine, diamorphine, epidural, remifentanil PCA**
- 6. In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**
- 7. In each individual year over the past 5 years, how many patients who have an epidural use an alternative form of pain relief prior to requesting an epidural?**
- 8. In each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are waiting more than 30 minutes to receive an epidural? What is the mean time taken to obtain an epidural by time of day (in hours vs out of hours)?**
- 9. If remifentanil PCA is available, how many patients are able to have a PCA at any one time?**

10. If remifentanyl PCA is available, is this offered to anyone or only in those for whom an epidural is contraindicated?
11. If remifentanyl PCA is not available in a delivery unit, what is the reason for this?
12. Out of hours (nights and weekends), how many dedicated anaesthetists are on-site, and has this changed over the past 5 years?
13. For each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are requesting a physiological third stage compared to an active third stage (please stratify this by setting i.e. delivery unit and birth centre)? What proportion of patients who choose physiological third stage management then go on to have a post-partum haemorrhage when compared to those who choose an active third stage?

## RESPONSE

1. **Whiston** – Delivery suite with 10 beds and an additional 3 Midwifery Led Unit Beds

2.

Year	Number of MLU deliveries	Number of Obstetric unit deliveries	Number of Spontaneous vaginal deliveries	Number of deliveries by Emergency caesarean Section	Number of deliveries by Elective caesarean section
2019	557	3302	2330	714	596
2020	429	3307	2144	703	589
2021	281	3489	2010	811	665
2022	223	3546	2028	744	681
2023	165	3500	1799	772	736

This data excludes homebirths/BBAs/other locations

3. Nonpharmacological pain relief options: Water/pool only

4. We are unable to provide data for all of the non-pharmacological forms of pain relief due to the limitation of our MIS

Year	Water immersion
2019	494
2020	382
2021	273
2022	242
2023	186

This data excludes homebirths/BBAs/other locations

5. Pharmacological pain relief: paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, entonox, pethidine, diamorphine, epidural,

6. Unable to provide information for the other forms of non-pharmacological pain relief listed in the FOI due to the limitation of our MIS

Year	Epidural
2019	502
2020	504
2021	670
2022	693
2023	649

This data excludes homebirths/BBAs/other locations

7.

Year	Number of patients who have had alternative pain relief prior to having an Epidural
2019	266
2020	249
2021	321
2022	326
2023	301

This data excludes home births/BBAs/other locations

8. Unable to provide this information, it would take too long to collate.

9. N/A

10. N/A

11. We are currently in the process of writing the guideline to implement safely.

12. 1 – no change over the last 5 years.

13.

Year	Number of patients who had active third stage of labour on obstetric led unit	Number of patients who had active third stage of labour on midwifery led Unit	Number of patients who had physiological third stage on obstetric led unit	Number of patients who had physiological third stage on midwifery led unit	Number of patients who had a postpartum haemorrhage >500ml following active third stage	Number of patients who had a postpartum haemorrhage >500ml following a physiological third stage
2019	3274	372	24	185	646	9
2020	3284	328	23	101	668	9
2021	3450	245	38	36	788	3
2022	3514	197	32	26	832	4

2023	3461	147	39	18	923	6
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This data excludes home births/BBAs/other locations

1. **Ormskirk** – Delivery suite with 7 Obstetric beds and 3 Midwifery Led Beds (only captured from 2021 onwards)

Some data is missing from not being mandatory requirements.

2.

Year	Number of MLU deliveries (only from 2021 onwards)	Number of Obstetric unit deliveries	Number of Spontaneous vaginal deliveries	Number of deliveries by Emergency caesarean Section	Number of deliveries by Elective caesarean section
2019	N/A	2252	713	359	335
2020	N/A	1447	669	382	299
2021	76	1421	687	365	342
2022	88	1496	590	385	408
2023	66	1343	461	335	390

**This data excludes homebirths/BBAs/other locations**

3. Nonpharmacological pain relief options:

Water/pool and hypnobirthing only. TENS, aromatherapy and birth comb are provided by patient own use.

4. We are unable to provide data for all the non-pharmacological forms of pain relief due to the limitation of our MIS

Year	Water immersion	Hypnobirthing	Tens
2019	107	61	35
2020	41	20	24
2021	21	27	19
2022	18	15	23
2023	25	7	10

**This data excludes BBAs**

5. Pharmacological pain relief:

paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, entonox, pethidine, diamorphine, epidural

6. Unable to provide information for the other forms of non-pharmacological pain relief listed in the FOI due to the limitation of our MIS

Year	Epidural
2019	228
2020	207
2021	139
2022	149
2023	175

**This data excludes BBAs**

7. Data unable to retrieve due to MIS limitations

Year	Number of patients who have had alternative pain relief prior to having an Epidural
2019	-
2020	-
2021	-
2022	-
2023	-

**This data excludes home births/BBAs/other locations**

8. Unable to provide this information, it would take too long to collate.

9. N/A

10. N/A

11. We are currently in the process of writing the guideline to implement safely.

12. 1 – no change over the last 5 years.

13.

Year	Number of patients who had active third stage of labour on obstetric led unit	Number of patients who had active third stage of labour on midwifery led Unit (only from 2021)	Number of patients who had physiological third stage on obstetric led unit	Number of patients who had physiological third stage on midwifery led unit (only from 2021)	Number of patients who had a postpartum haemorrhage >500ml following active third stage	Number of patients who had a postpartum haemorrhage >500ml following a physiological third stage
2019	1783	N/A	20	N/A	319	2
2020	940	N/A	3	N/A	267	1
2021	1631	65	41	6	264	2
2022	1170	73	21	10	199	3
2023	896	45	22	8	192	1

**This data excludes BBAs/other locations**