

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding current clinical practices for perineal wound care at your Trust. This information is being collected to better understand the variation in perineal wound care across NHS Trusts in England, and will contribute to a broader understanding of current clinical approaches across NHS Trusts in England, both during and after childbirth.

We would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following questions:

1a. What solution is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when a spontaneous vaginal delivery is imminent?

Water

1b. What solution is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when an instrumental delivery (e.g., forceps or vacuum) is planned or imminent?

On CDS and Labour ward Water in theatre – bottle water/sterile water

2. In the event of an episiotomy during a spontaneous vaginal birth, what cleansing solution is used immediately beforehand?

Water or nothing

3a. What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following a spontaneous vaginal birth?

Water or sterile water

3b. What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following an instrumental vaginal birth?

On CDS and Labour ward Water in theatre – bottle water/sterile water

4. What cleansing solution is used after suturing is completed, and is this different following spontaneous or instrumental births?

None – if cleaned water only

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?

No

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).

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)?

We collect data on women who have undergone a OASI as we follow them up in tear clinic,

7. If your Trust offers a perineal wound clinic, which products—if any—are recommended to support wound healing?

We do not have a perineal wound clinic.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>