NHS

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals

NHS Trust

Ref no:	216150819
From:	Commercial
Date:	15/08/19
Subject:	Maternity units - Wound infection in Caesarean sections

REQUEST & RESPONSE

I am contacting you to ask if you can provide professional feedback on an innovation that we are currently reviewing. It is a handheld device for the prediction of surgical site infection (SSI) before and after caesarean section, so at an early stage in healing and recovery. In the future, it could be used in maternity units in women before discharge from hospital but also by community midwives after discharge during their visits. It has the benefits of being a non-contact, handheld imaging device, providing easy to interpret results, which could allow prediction of wound infections before the signs appear during the critical period of 10 days post-surgery.

At this stage of the project, we are assessing the potential need for such a device and how it would fit within current practice in the NHS. On that basis, we would welcome information on the following aspects:

1	What is your role (hospital midwife, community midwife, …)?	Midwife
	BIRTHS & POST DISCHARGE	
2	What is the total number of births by caesarean section on average every month?	100
3	What is the number of births from women with BMI≥30 by caesarean section on average every month?	30
4	How many post-discharge visits do you make, on average, after a lady has a caesarean section?	3-4
5	What percentage of post discharge visits are carried out: • in out-patient clinics? • as home visits?	0 % 100 %
	READMISSIONS	
6	What is the total number of monthly readmissions after a caesarean section?	*
7	What is the number of monthly readmissions after caesarean section for women specifically with BMI≥30?	*
8	What percentage of readmissions are related to surgical	*

	site infection after c-section across all BMI categories?	
9	What percentage of readmissions are related to surgical site infection in women after c-section in ladies with a higher BMI i.e. ≥30?	_*_
10	What is the average length of stay (bed days) for ladies who are re-admitted after c-section	1 day
	WOUND INFECTION PREDICTION	
11	Do you think that wound inspection provides reliable assessment of later wound infection?	unable to comment as all clinical pictures are different
12	Have you ever used a device / technology to predict caesarean wound infection? If yes, which one?	No
13	Do you see any potential advantages in the new proposed device to establish early prediction of SSI?	Yes
14	What evidence would you require to consider using such a device?	RCT
15	What could be the barriers to adopting such a new device in the NHS?	Cost
16	If it was available, how many would you need in your department: • for in hospital use (inpatients)? • for community use (post discharge visits)?	Unable to answer as too many variable s
17	Would you see the need for such a device by health visitors, beyond the 10 days post discharge period?	NA
18	Who would make the decision on the purchase of such devices (midwife, head of midwifery, commissioners, …): • for in hospital use (inpatients)? • for community use (post discharge visits)?	HOM Procurement
19	Would you consider testing such a device? (if yes, please share your contact details)	NA

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We are unable to provide the information you require as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the Act.