

FOI REF: 25/318

23rd May 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please could you provide the following information that is attached in the Word document for the individual free-standing maternity units, alongside maternity units and obstetrician led labour wards:

**Conquest Obstetric-led Maternity Unit.
Eastbourne Midwifery Unit.**

Please see the attached document – 'FOI 25-318 Survey of Perineal Tears & Obstetric Practice'.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net

Survey of perineal tears and obstetric practice in the UK

We would appreciate if you would kindly complete this short but important survey. This information would help us to establish accurate prevalence data and establish the current national practice regarding follow-up of third- and fourth-degree tears between **31st December 2023 - 1st January 2025** and correlate data with the maternity dashboard.

Data is for 2024 only

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Name of Hospital / Unit | East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust | | | |
| Address | Conquest Hospital - The Ridge, Hastings, Saint Leonards-on-Sea TN37 7RD Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH) - Kings Drive, Eastbourne BN21 2UD | | | |
| | Total | Primiparous | Multiparous | Don't Know |
| All Births (all registerable births) | 2705 EDGH – 52 babies Conquest 2653 babies (of these 2665 women gave birth) EDGH – 52 women gave birth Conquest – 2613 women gave birth | 824 EDGH – 10 Conquest - 814 | 1877 EDGH – 42 Conquest- 1835 | 4 |
| Vaginal deliveries (SVD) | 1281 (incl 7 breech) EDGH – 52 Conquest - 1229 | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |
| Forceps deliveries | 158 EDGH – 0 Conquest 158 | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |

| | Total | Primiparous | Multiparous | Don't Know |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Ventouse deliveries | 152 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 152 | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |
| Failed ventouse → Forceps deliveries | Digital system does not provide this data | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |
| Caesarean Section (women birthed) | 1079 (29 ungraded) EDGH – 0 Conquest - 1079 | 729 | 322 | 0 |
| Elective caesarean section | 394 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 394 | 210 | 184 | 0 |
| Emergency caesarean Section | 657 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 657 | 519 | 138 | 0 |
| Second degree tears | 639 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 639 | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |
| Sutured second degree tears | Digital system does not provide this data | Digital system does not provide this data | Digital system does not provide this data | Digital system does not provide this data |
| Episiotomies | 362 EDGH -1 Conquest - 361 | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System | Data not broken down on Trust's System |
| Third degree tears | 33 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 33 | 17 | 16 | 0 |
| 3a | 20 EDGH – 0 Conquest – 20 | 10 | 10 | 0 |

| | Total | Primiparous | Multiparous | Don't Know |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------|
| 3b | 13 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| 3c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fourth degree tears | 1 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rectal buttonhole tear | 1 EDGH – 0 Conquest - 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Type of Hospital/Unit? (please X or ✓) | Free-standing M EDGH | Alongside Midwifery Unit | Obstetrician Led Labour Ward Conquest Hospital | State Other: |
| How are third- and fourth-degree tears classified for data collection? (please X or ✓) | | | | |
| 3 rd degree tears | 3 rd & 4 th degree tears separately | Grade 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 th degree ✓ | Don't know | |
| Do you have a designated perineal clinic | Yes ✓ | No | | |
| If yes, is it (please X or ✓) | Midwifery led | Obstetrician led | State Other: Both | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Please kindly provide names of perineal clinic leads and designation Name: Contact Address Email: | Pelvic Health Specialist Midwife Pelvic Health Pysio According to our Freedom of Information Policy we only release the names of staff on Grade 8a and above. These posts of Pelvic Health Specialist Midwife and Pelvic Health Physio are below a Grade 8a and therefore the details requested cannot be provided. Victoria Asfour – Consultant Obstetrician Lead for Pelvic repair and perineal clinics We are unable to provide the contact details of staff as we consider this information to be exempt from release in accordance with section 44 of the |
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|---|--|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| | | <p>Freedom of Information Act (Prohibition on disclosure) and would refer to the Privacy and Electronic Communications EC Directive Regulations 2003 which provide specific rules on electronic communication services, including marketing (by phone, fax, email or text) and keeping communications services secure. We will not provide any information that could result in the transmission of unsolicited communications which may place an unacceptable risk to our email network and could also have a detrimental impact on patient care and treatment.</p> <p>The contact number for the Trust are accessible on the Trust website http://www.esht.nhs.uk.</p> <p>This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.</p> | | |
| If No, how are women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears followed up? (please X or ✓) | | | | |
| Community midwives | GP | Hospital antenatal clinic | Others – Please state | Not applicable |
| Do you have a designated women's health physiotherapist? (please X or ✓) | | | | |
| If yes, how many? | 1 | | | |
| If yes, when do they follow up women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears | Combined Physio and MW clinic | | | |
| Antenatal | Postnatal ✓ Telephone call appointment at 3 weeks & face to face appointment at 6 to 8 weeks. | Ward prior to discharge ✓ Seen by PH physio | Other- Please state | |
| What maternity data system is used in your unit? (please X or ✓) | | | | |
| Epic | Terranova | Euro king | Cerner | Other: ✓ |
| Any further comments: | ESHT obstetric anal sphincter injury (OASI) rate as of February 2025 was 16.78/1000 per rolling 12 months. | | | |

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|---|--|
| Kindly provide the following details in case we need clarification. | |
| Your name: | <p>Pelvic Health Specialist Midwife</p> <p>According to our Freedom of Information Policy we only release the names of staff on Grade 8a and above. These posts are below a Grade 8a and therefore the details requested cannot be provided.</p> |
| Contact details: | Section 44 applied, please refer to page 3. |
| Email address: | |