



Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request Ref: NGFOI 17/18: 435

Thank you for your request for information received at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH) on 21/12/17.

I am pleased to be able to provide you with the following information.

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Please provide the following information to help us to assess variation in accessibility to maternal request caesarean sections.

- *Advise how many maternal request caesarean sections with no obstetric, medical or significant psychological reason were carried out by each obstetric unit within your Trust between April 2016 and April 2017.*

There were 56 caesarean sections classified on the Medway Clinical IT System as being primarily for maternal request during the period April 2016 and April 2017. A previous audit of elective caesarean sections found that this is a homogenous group of women who have concerns for a variety of reasons from a genuine fear of labour to a previous traumatic birth experience. Some women have a concern regarding a maternal medical condition that is not an indication for a CS.

It is not possible to tell whether there were any obstetric, medical or significant psychological concerns in these cases without looking at the medical records, however as the indication for caesarean section has been classified as 'maternal request' it would suggest that there were no contraindications to a vaginal birth.

- *Provide a copy of any locally agreed guidelines, staff guidelines and patient information leaflets that explain how requests for maternal request caesarean sections will be handled by the Trust.*

The Birth after Caesarean Section guideline (NGH-GU-1086) provides guidance and information on the management of women with a prior history of one uncomplicated lower segment transverse caesarean section in an otherwise uncomplicated pregnancy at term (attached).

We do not have a specific guideline that covers requests for maternal request caesarean sections for women who have not had a previous caesarean section.

- *Please provide an explanation as to how you specifically meet NICE CG132 1.2.9.5 and if you are not, please provide the reason.*

If having considered their options, a woman requests a caesarean section, then this is offered in line with NICE recommendations.

- *Have you as a Trust (or any individual obstetric unit within your Trust) changed your policy of maternal request caesareans at all since April 14 and if so:*

No