

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB\_219\_23**

### **You asked:**

I am part of a team working on a project to improve the lives of women after childbirth. Currently, early diagnosis of sphincter damage during natural childbirth is the subject of many scientific studies. We want to take a closer look at this problem as we are aware that diagnosis of this condition is necessary to define a prompt therapeutic strategy and thus avoid the development of further consequences, such as faecal or urinary incontinence. Bearing in mind that the problem affects many women all over the world, we want to gather information on the solutions used in different countries in this field. How is this coped with in UK.

**1. Therefore, I would like to ask you whether the standard perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage in UK is a screening test that is a guaranteed, publicly funded service?**

The standard perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage in the UK is vaginal examination and per rectum examination. This is part of National Health Service universal maternity care for all service users who have a vaginal birth. This service is free at the point of delivery.

**2. Are there any regulations, i.e. laws, legal acts that clearly stipulate what procedures a doctor should follow during natural childbirth?**

Doctors follow local and national guidelines (NICE) to advise of best practice when supporting childbirth. There are no specific laws or legal actions relating to protecting perineal well being and health. Doctor's competence is regulated through the General Medical Council. Their clinical care is guided by their Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

**3. Please indicate also the specific legal rules, including regulations and systemic restrictions regarding the above.**

There are no specific rules, regulations or systematic restrictions regarding perineal repair, examination or protection, apart from the information included in question 2.

**In addition, do you have information on the number of medical procedures performed under the ICD-10 codes in 2019-2023 in UK?**

**4. O70 Rupture of the perineum and mucous membranes at birth**

**O700 Birth Lesion grad 1**

**O701 Birth Lesion grad 2**

**O702 Birth Lesion grad 3**

**O703 Birth Lesion grad 4**

## **0709 Birth Lesion in the perineum and mucous membranes UNS**

### **5. O71 - other obstetric trauma, incl.: O71.8**

### **6. R15-incontinence**

Please see provided in the table below the number of inpatient/daycase episodes with a primary ICD10 diagnosis listed above.

Please note all the codes relate to a diagnosis and not procedures as you have stated above.

The Health Board's information systems do not record codes 070, 071 and 071.8. Therefore, we have been unable to provide.

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by \*\*. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

<b>ICD10 Code</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
0700	264	286	484	505
0701	517	551	575	599
0702	96	83	79	55
0703	7	**	**	**
0709	11	9	11	**
0713	**	0	**	**
0714	**	0	**	**
0715	**	**	5	**
0716	**	0	**	0
0717	0	**	0	**
0718	161	29	25	10
0719	**	0	0	0
R15	11	**	9	8