



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_490_24

You asked:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information regarding clinical guidelines and the use of birthing pools/water immersion during labour and/or birth by women who had previously had a caesarean section:

Request Details

Number of Women Using a Birthing Pool/Water Immersion Following a Previous Caesarean Section:

1. Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth in your Health Board for each of the following time periods:

- **01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013**
- **01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014**
- **01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015**
- **01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016**
- **01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017**
- **01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018**
- **01 January 2019 - 31 December 2019**
- **01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020**
- **01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021**
- **01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022**
- **01 January 2023 - 31 December 2023**

Please see information provided in the table below. Noting our data is only accessible back to January 2016.

01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016	9
01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017	9
01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018	**
01 January 2019 - 31 December 2019	**
01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020	7
01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021	8
01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022	**
01 January 2023 - 31 December 2023	**

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.

2. Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to:

- **The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth.**
- **Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).**

The following clinical guidelines specifically relate to the use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and / or birth and vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).

[Birth After Casarean Section CTM Guidance. \(nhs.wales\)](#)

[Guideline for the use of Water Immersion for Labour & Birth](#)

3. Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

The following clinical guidelines contain information about the use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour.

[All Wales Midwifery Led Care Guidelines 6th Edition](#)

[Induction of Labour Guideline including Arrest of Labour](#)

[Birth After Casarean Section CTM Guidance. \(nhs.wales\)](#)

[Guidelines for the Management of Intrapartum Care](#)

4. Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.

The following clinical guidelines contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.

[All Wales Midwifery Led Care Guidelines 6th Edition](#)

[Induction of Labour Guideline including Arrest of Labour](#)

[Guideline for the use of Water Immersion for Labour & Birth](#)

[Caesarean Section Guideline](#)

[Guidelines for the Management of Intrapartum Care](#)

[Antenatal Care Guideline](#)