

## Open and Honest Maternity Care in your Local Hospital



The *Open and Honest Care: Driving Improvement* programme aims to support organisations to become more transparent and consistent in publishing safety, experience and improvement data; with the overall aim of improving care, practice and culture.

Report for:

**Blackpool Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust**

February 2017

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This report is based on information from January, 2017

The information is presented in three key categories: safety, experience and improvement. This report will also signpost you towards additional information about the trust's performance.

# 1. SAFETY

## Maternity Safety Thermometer

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On one day each month we use the maternity safety thermometer, which is a nationally agreed tool to monitor care in maternity services. We use it to check to see how many women and babies experienced certain types of harm whilst in our care. It is called a safety 'thermometer' because it is a tool designed to take a sample of information available and so acts similarly to a 'temperature' check of safety, experience and improvement. This helps us to understand where we need to make improvements.

When we are using the term 'harm' in the context of maternity care it is important to understand that for many women these 'harms' are known complications of labour and birth and can not necessarily be avoided.

The maternity safety thermometer records whether any of four physical 'harms' occurred and asks three questions about women's experiences of maternity care.

The four physical 'harms' we record information on in the maternity safety thermometer are;

- Severe tears in the skin and muscle around the vagina (also known as perineal tears or 3rd and 4th degree tears)
- Heavy blood loss following birth more than 1000mls (also known as post partum haemorrhage)
- Apgar score less than 7 at 5 minutes which is an indication of how well your baby was at birth (this is a score out of 10 where 2 points are given for each of the following: heart rate, breathing, colour, muscle tone and response to touch - 10 being the best score)
- Women who report having an infection starting between the onset of labour and 10 days of giving birth.

The term 'harm free care' (HFC) is the percentage of women who do not experience any of these 'harms' during their labour and birth as recorded in the maternity safety thermometer. The score below shows the percentage of patients who did not experience any of these harms measured in the Maternity Safety Thermometer and is known as harm free care. Please note the Safety thermometer harms identify data collected from women on one day per month and are a snap shot of the 'harms'. The breakdown of these results are shown below alongside the actual incidence of harms.

**79.1% of patients did not experience any of the four harms in this trust.**

For more information, including a breakdown by category, please visit:

[https://www.safetythermometer.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=285](https://www.safetythermometer.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=285)

## Outcomes in our maternity service

Most women have a normal birth but some women need to have some help to give birth to their baby and have an operative birth. Operative birth could be a caesarean section, vacuum or forceps birth. Whilst having an operative birth can be potentially life saving there is great variation across the country. It is important to note that the need for an operative birth is dependent on risk factors and can vary in different populations so this information should not be used in isolation.

	Total number of births	Spontaneous vaginal birth	Planned Caesarean	Emergency Caesarean	Forceps	Vaginal Breech
<b>This month</b>	261	57.9%	14.9%	14.2%	3.8%	0.4%
<b>Actual numbers since April 2016</b>	2541	60.7%	13.6%	14.0%	4.2%	0.4%

The % figures for spontaneous vaginal births are triangulated to the mode of delivery with positive delivery outcomes for mother , baby and patient experience. All emergency caesarean sections are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure appropriate management and care is provided.

Of the 261 women who gave birth this month the following 'actual' harms occurred:

	Actuals		Safety Thermometer	
	Harms	Total % of women giving birth	Harms	Total % of women giving birth
Severe perineal tears (3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> degree)	10	3.8%	4	9.3%
Post Partum Haemorrhage (more than 1000mls)	9	3.5%	2	4.7%
Infection	-	-	2	4.7%
Apgar score less than 7 at 5 minutes	9	3.5%	1	2.3%

The number of stillbirths is recorded each quarter. The number of stillbirths which occurred in our Trust for the last quarter (1/16 to 3/16)

Actual Stillbirths	0	% of all births	0.00%	Total Births - quarter	261
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## 2. EXPERIENCE

### Women and Family Experience

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To measure women and families and staff experience we calculate percentages from surveys.

The answers are:

- Extremely Likely
- Likely
- Neither
- Unlikely
- Extremely Unlikely

The calculation is simple:

The % is all the 'extremely likely' and 'likely' answers added together, then divided by all answers (see above).

### The Friends and Family Test

The Friends and Family Test requires all women, at 36 weeks, (ante natal), after the birth, (Labour/Birth), prior to transfer from hospital (Post natal in hospital) and on discharge from the midwife, (post natal at home) to be asked: How likely are you to recommend the maternity service to friends and family?

Antenatal	97%	This is based on 99 responses.
Home Birth	98%	This is based on 89 responses.
Postnatal	97%	This is based on 93 responses.
Community postnatal	100%	This is based on 10 responses.

\*This result may have changed since publication, for the latest score please visit:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/friends-and-family-test/friends-and-family-test-data/>

In the maternity safety thermometer we also ask women three questions about their experiences in relation to feeling safe during labour. We are aware they make up only two aspects of feeling safe, and once again are only a 'temperature' check of how safe women are feeling. The questions are

'Were you left alone at a time that worried you by a doctor or midwife, during labour?'

'If you raised concerns about safety, were you satisfied with the response, during labour and birth?'

'Were you ever separated from your baby?'

This month we asked 26 women how they felt using the Maternity Safety Thermometer. Their responses are in the table below;

Questions (Taken from maternity Safety Thermometer)	Yes	No
Were you left alone by midwives or doctors at a time when it worried you during labour and birth?	0%	100%
If you raised a concern during labour and birth about safety did you feel that it was taken seriously?	100%	0%
Were you ever separated from your baby?	0%	14%

Any baby who needs blood sugar monitoring has their blood taken, which requires baby to be taken to the Neonatal Unit. Although mums can go with baby, some mothers prefer not to.

## A woman's or family story

E-compliment:

Dear Chief Executive,

I would like to express our gratitude for all staff who were involved in the delivery of our daughter, who arrived via an unplanned Caesarean section on Christmas Day. Throughout the entirety of the labour, delivery and recovery my husband and I have only thanks and praise for the care we received. We will be forever grateful for her safe arrival.

With kind regards and many thanks.

## Staff Experience

We also ask staff questions similar to the Friends and Family Test. We ask staff to think about their recent experiences of working in our maternity service and to answer 3 questions. This is based on 9 responses;

1. I would recommend this service as a place to work 100.0%
2. I would recommend the standard of care from this service to a friend or relative if they needed treatment 100.0%
3. I am satisfied with the quality of care I give to the patients, carers and their families 100.0%

The scores are calculated as the number of 'Strongly Agree' + 'Agree' responses divided by the total number of responses (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree)

### 3. IMPROVEMENT

Improvement story: we are listening to women and their families and are making changes to improve the service.

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**Issue:** Babies on the neo natal unit can stay for many weeks and parents often spend hours next to them at the cot side. As the baby's health improves and they are close to being discharged, there wasn't a private facility available for parents and the baby's siblings to spend time together in preparation for discharge home.

**Action:** Money was raised to redecorate and furnish an old isolation room on the neo natal unit, by a number of former patients' families via the hospital's charity, Blue Skies Hospitals Fund.

The room has cushioned flooring to keep little players safe and also has facilities where mums can play music and read books to the babies in a more stimulating environment.

The room is also being used for conversations between families and medical staff, providing support to mum's who are trying to establish feeding, on special occasions, such as a blessing, and as a private area following bereavement.

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### 4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### **Supervisors of Midwives**

The Supervisors of Midwives are experienced midwives with at least 3 years since qualifying as a midwife,

**The national agreed ratio of Supervisors of Midwives to Midwives is 1:15**

Our Supervisors of Midwives to Midwives ratio is **1:12** which is better than the national ratio and supports the trust ethos of staff development, to ensure care is provided by competent, skilled staff.