

## 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**

March 2017

This report is based on information from February, 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.

**95.0%** 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>	198	59.1%	17.2%	13.1%	5.1%	0.0%
<b>Actual numbers since April 2016</b>	2739	60.6%	13.9%	13.9%	4.3%	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 198 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)	7	5.1%	0	0.0%
Post Partum Haemorrhage (more than 1000mls)	8	4.1%	2	5.0%
Infection	-	-	0	0.0%
Apgar score less than 7 at 5 minutes	2	1.0%	0	0.0%

The number of stillbirths is recorded each quarter. The number of stillbirths which occurred in our Trust for the last quarter (1/17 to 3/17)

Actual Stillbirths	0	% of all births	0.00%	Total Births - quarter	459
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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	95%	This is based on 81 responses.
Home Birth	100%	This is based on 72 responses.
Postnatal	95%	This is based on 95 responses.
Community postnatal	92%	This is based on 12 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?	14%	86%

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:

"I would just like to send a quick email to praise a midwife who supported me throughout my labour.

"I gave birth to my little girl on 29th November 2016 and the midwife who cared for me through the final stages - I could not praise enough. Jenny Clarke had such a lovely bedside manner and was always doing her absolute most to make sure myself and even my husband and mother were all comfortable and happy throughout. Once I had given birth to my baby she also informed me and showed me how to allow my baby to find and breastfeed on her own when she was ready. Jenny made my experience on the midwife unit as enjoyable as possible (when in labour) and would just like her kindness and lovely nature to be appreciated and noticed."

## 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 87.5%
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:** The bathrooms on Ward D had dated decor and were not fit for purpose. They needed to be re-decorated and refurbished to ensure infection prevention.

**Action:** All bathrooms on Ward D have started to be refurbished with new baths, showers units and toilets installed. The rooms are also being painted and tiled so they are more modern and brighter in appearance.

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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.