

Caesarean and Induced Labour Rates

Supplementary Report

NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group

Introduction

1. The Director of Public Health has submitted a report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, outlining the rate of births by caesarean section and induced labour at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals and the Royal Free Hospital. That report provides data at NHS trust level. This supplementary report provides the data for those patients who are the responsibility of NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group.

Caesarean Sections 2012/13

	All Barnet CCG Deliveries	Barnet CCG Deliveries at BCF	Barnet CCG Deliveries at RFH	Barnet CCG Deliveries at UCL	Barnet CCG Deliveries at other Trusts
No of deliveries	5071	2427	1224	561	859
No (%) of deliveries by C-Section	1555 (31%)	764 (31%)	349 (29%)	160 (29%)	282 (33%)
No (%) of deliveries by planned (elective) C-Section	615 (19%)	271 (11%)	149 (12%)	80 (14.5%)	115 (19.5%)
No (%) of deliveries by emergency C-section	940 (12%)	493 (20%)	200 (17%)	80 (14.5%)	167 (13.5%)

2. Although the NICE Clinical Guidance relating to caesarean section where this is not clinically indicated effectively establishes a mother's right to choose a caesarean delivery, policy within the NHS stresses the importance of birth as a normal part of life for most women. This is reflected in 'Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service' (2007), the most recent Department of Health strategy for maternity services. The NHS Institute for Innovation has also carried out a detailed review of the use of caesarean sections and published a toolkit to support maternity services to promote normal births.

3. Mandatory payment by results tariffs were introduced nationally for 2013/14. Maternity services providers will receive the same payment for a birth without complications, and for a birth with complications, regardless of whether it is a normal or caesarean delivery. This provides maternity services providers with a financial incentive to review their use of caesarean sections and reduce this where clinically appropriate.
4. The Clinical Commissioning Group and providers recognise that the caesarean section rates at both Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital (BCF) and the Royal Free Hospital (RFH) are above the London average. Key performance indicators have been included in 2013/14 contracts to reduce this to 28% and 29% respectively. The slightly higher target for RFH reflects a significant and sustained decrease from the position at March 2011.
5. It is the emergency caesarean section rate at BCF which commissioners are focussing on as an area of service improvement. This was identified as an outlier by the Care Quality Commission, who asked BCF to undertake a case note review of at least 30 randomly selected cases. Initial conversations with BCF suggest that this may be linked to the clinical rota. Representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group are meeting with BCF in May 2013 to review the findings from the case note review and the Trust's action plan to address these. This approach is part of BCF's Service Improvement and Development Plan for 2012/13, which has been agreed through the contracting process.

Induced Deliveries 2012/13

	All Barnet CCG Deliveries	Barnet CCG Deliveries at BCF	Barnet CCG Deliveries at RFH	Barnet CCG Deliveries at UCL	Barnet CCG Delivers at other Trusts
% of deliveries which were induced	27%	27%	31%	26%	24%

6. As stated in the Director of Public Health's report, the data on induced labour is problematic and it appears that inductions may not be coded appropriately. At this stage, the Clinical Commissioning Group does not have a view on this data. Performance on inductions will be part of a suite of quality indicators which are discussed with maternity providers on a regular basis.

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