

Reference:	FOI.11777.23
Subject:	Perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage
Date of Request:	24 May 2023

Requested:

1. 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?
2. Are there any regulations, i.e. laws, legal acts that clearly stipulate what procedures a doctor should follow during natural childbirth?

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

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

O70 Bristning af mellemkød og slimhinder ved fødsel
O700 Fødselslæsion grad 1
O701 Fødselslæsion grad 2
O702 Fødselslæsion grad 3
O703 Fødselslæsion grad 4
O709 Fødselslæsion i mellemkød og slimhinder UNS
O71 - other obstetric trauma, incl.: O71.8
R15 - incontinence

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) can only provide you with information it holds. Therefore, the UHB confirms that it does not have a guaranteed screening list for perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage. However, women who may have sustained a severe perineal trauma would be treated and followed up via Gynaecological/Colorectal pathways.
2. The UHB confirms that for the majority of women experiencing a normal physiological pregnancy and birth, care and birth is overseen and conducted by midwives, who operate according to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Code of Practice and Midwifery Led Guidance in place for this group of women. The UHB also adheres to the All Wales Midwifery Led Care Guidelines.
- 3a. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of medical procedures with a primary diagnosis for the ICD-10 codes listed, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2019 to 2022 calendar years and the period 1 January to 31 May 2023.

Primary diagnosis - ICD-10 codes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
O700 - First degree perineal laceration during delivery	150	124	122	132	52	580
O701 - Second degree perineal laceration during delivery	311	209	237	215	67	1,039

O702 - Third degree perineal laceration during delivery	18	19	18	8	*	**
O703 - Fourth degree perineal laceration during delivery	*	*	*	*	0	*
O709 - Perineal laceration during delivery, unspecified	0	*	0	0	0	**
O710 - Rupture of uterus before onset of labour	0	*	0	0	0	**
O711 - Rupture of uterus during labour	*	0	*	*	*	*
O713 - Obstetric laceration of cervix	0	*	*	*	0	*
O714 - Obstetric high vaginal laceration	*	0	0	0	*	**
O715 - Other obstetric injury to pelvic organs	*	*	*	*	*	8
O718 - Other specified obstetric trauma	8	*	*	*	0	15
R15X - Faecal incontinence	24	6	7	*	*	40

Please note:- The data provided in the table is for the primary admitting episode, for any diagnosis, where a listed procedure code was recorded. Therefore, if the diagnosis was recorded but no procedure was associated with the same episode, the numbers have not been included. However, if multiple procedure codes were recorded, this was only counted as one instance.

Additionally, where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact numbers, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figures with a double asterisk (**). Therefore, the UHB is withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.