

Ref: FOI-219 -Clinical Data and Processes- Virtual Wards

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Virtual Wards in Maternity.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 Does your Trust use virtual wards for any maternity/obstetrics patients? If no please go to the last question (question 2).**

A1 No

**Q2 Is this provided internally (i.e. Trust versus private outsource), If outsourced which provider is responsible for delivering the virtual ward.**

A2 Not applicable

**Q3 How long have you been providing or had provision for this virtual ward (months)?**

A3 Not applicable

**Q4 If yes what obstetric/early pregnancy conditions do you currently use the virtual ward for:**

- Pre-eclampsia
- Preterm prelabour rupture of membranes
- Obstetric Cholestasis
- Outpatient management of miscarriage
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy
- Hyperemesis gravidarum
- Other please specify:

A4 Not applicable

**Q5 Which diagnostic/monitoring tests do you provide as part of this service:**

- Pulse

- Temperature
- Blood pressure
- Pulse Oximetry
- Blood tests (if so what tests and modality i.e. Point of care)
- Urinalysis
- Symptom questionnaire
- Fetal monitoring
- IV fluids
- IV medications
- Oral Medications

A5 Not applicable

**Q6 Which categories of medications are administered :**

- Antihypertensives
- Antiemetics
- Analgesia
- Other please specify:
- None

A6 Not applicable

**Q7 What is the maximum frequency of monitoring provided?**

A7 Not applicable

**Q8 On average how many times a day will monitoring occur?**

A8 Not applicable

**Q9 Are abnormal results reviewed by the treating team or the virtual ward provider?**

A9 Not applicable

**Q10 Is there a time limit of how long patients can stay within the virtual ward e.g. two weeks. If yes how long is the duration?**

A10 Not applicable

**Q11 How is the virtual ward funded?**

A11 Not applicable

**Q12 If you currently do not provide a virtual ward for maternity/obstetrics patients do you have plans to implement them and if so when is this expected to go live?**

A12 No – we do not currently have plans for a maternity virtual ward.

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This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records