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Information on Vaginal Breech Births and C-Sections

Belfast Trust is able to provide information in response to Question 5 only.

To provide the information requested in response to the other questions would involve a manual trawl through individual records of all our stillbirth and neonatal deaths to ascertain if either breech or vaginal birth after C-Section was attempted, but this would not tell us if this was a mother's request nor the circumstances of the delivery. To answer this request would require work in excess of 18 hours for a number of staff.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

- 1. Success rates of vaginal breech births**
 - a. Details of success rate based on midwife led vs consultant led care**
- 2. Success rates of vaginal birth after 1 C-section**
 - a. Details of success rate based on midwife led vs consultant led care**
- 3. Success rates of vaginal breech birth after one C-section**
 - a. Details of success rate based on midwife led vs consultant led care**
- 4. Details of the training offered to your staff to support vaginal breech birth both for first time mothers and after one previous C-section**
- 5. Details/number of staff that have hands on experience of vaginal breech births.**

All midwives and obstetricians are required to attend Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT) biennially.

This training includes vaginal breech birth simulation. The key learning points are as follows:

- Ensure that practitioners managing vaginal breech birth are trained and competent.

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- Ensure that there is continuous electronic fetal monitoring during labour and birth (even if the decision is taken to perform Caesarean Section), as this may lead to improved neonatal outcomes.
- Ensure full cervical dilatation before commencing pushing.
- Await visualisation of the breech at the perineum before encouraging active pushing.
- Avoid traction on the breech.
- Ensure a “hands off” approach as much as possible.
- Understand the manoeuvres that may be required to assist a vaginal breech birth.

On occasions when the maternity service is aware that a woman has chosen a vaginal breech birth, bespoke training sessions are delivered to the practitioners likely to be involved.

- 6. Your C-section rate for the hospital, detailing what percentage of the C-section rate is for emergency C-section (and which grade of emergency) vs elective C-section.**
- 7. Details of reason for C-sections performed.**