

17 January 2023

## Termination of Pregnancy Services

- 1. What termination of pregnancy services are currently available within this Trust? Does the Trust provide terminations of pregnancy after 9 weeks 6 days gestation? If so, please specify at what gestations. Specifically, does the Trust provide abortions at 10-12 weeks? At 12-20 weeks? At 20 weeks and above? Please specify the method of abortion used for each of these gestational periods.**

At present the Belfast trust are commissioned to provide termination of pregnancy (TOP) services and offer the following termination of pregnancy services, Early Medical Abortion (EMA), Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA, in RJMS only at present for management of miscarriage however to be implemented in early 2023 for TOP) and feticide in the Royal Jubilee Maternity Service (RJMS).

At present, the Belfast Trust, provide TOP services to patients up to 9 weeks and 6 days (Regulation 3). At present, the trust does not provide termination of pregnancy beyond 9 weeks and 6 days however; this service has a planned implementation date of early 2023.

The trust provide termination of pregnancy in line with legislation beyond 12 – 20 weeks (please see below). At this gestation, TOP is only carried out in the RJMS and medical management is used.

At 20 weeks – 21+6 weeks medical management is provided and from 23 weeks, feticide service is available in certain circumstances.

**Regulation 3** – pregnancy not exceeding 12 weeks

**Regulation 4** – risk to physical or mental health where pregnancy not exceeding 24 weeks

**Regulation 5** – immediate necessity

**Regulation 6** – risk to life or grave permanent injury to physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

**Regulation 7** – Severe fetal impairment or fatal fetal abnormality

17 January 2023

**2. What steps is the Trust taking to provide termination of pregnancy services after 9 weeks 6 days, as required by law?**

The Belfast trust are currently in the process of developing the Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) service for patients to access for termination of pregnancy after 9 weeks and 6 days. This service will be in place in early 2023 but there has been no definite date agreed.

We have recruited a clinical lead Consultant for the service; we have secured a location and are in the process of ordering and procuring the necessary equipment.

We have a Nurse and Midwife, both recruited on an expression of interest who will be involved in the setting up of the service but these posts will be recruited into permanently.

**3. Now that abortion services have been commissioned, what steps is the Trust taking to ensure the provision of comprehensive abortion services so that women no longer need to travel outside Northern Ireland to get the services they need? Please include information on the Trust's efforts to: (1) offer MVA or surgical abortion, (2) offer medication abortion beyond 9 weeks 6 days, in line with WHO guidance, (3) establish more than one location in the Trust where abortions are provided, and (4) train and employ registered nurses and midwives to offer abortion services, as permitted under the Abortion Regulations 2020.**

1. The Belfast trust are making plans and are in the advanced stages of providing the MVA service, this service will start in early 2023. (Please see question 2).
2. At present, the Belfast trust will not be offering "medication abortions" as routine for women who are beyond 9 weeks and 6 days and moving forward these patients will be offered the MVA service.
3. The trust have had to look at several options to ensure the safe delivery of termination services and can confirm the termination of pregnancy services will be held in more than one location
4. The Belfast trust currently have one Registered Nurse recruited into an expression of interest post in order to deliver termination of pregnancy services. We have a Midwife who will also assist in this service while we look to recruit permanently. It is the intention of the trust to ensure any nurses and midwives that are employed to work in termination of pregnancy services have full and appropriate training and this has been arranged accordingly.

17 January 2023

4. Please provide the number of terminations of pregnancy carried out in the Trust since 31 March 2020, broken down by age of patient, ethnicity of patient, postal district/residence, the number of complete weeks of gestation, and whether the termination was done by medical or surgical means.

Social and Reproductive Health (SRH) Early Medical Abortion Service (EMA)  
All terminations carried out by medical means

**SRH EMA Service College Street**

SRH BHSCT Totals											
	2020	2021	2022								
January		41	71								
February		41	45								
March		30	65								
April	49	38	45								
May	82	26	55								
June	50	32	45								
July	42	52	42								
August	37	32	59								
September	47	53	42								
October	51	54	50								
November	40	44	70								
December	42	50	62								
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>651</b>								
Total 2021	Belfast District Area			AGE	Gestation	Total 2022	Belfast District Areas			AGE	Gestation
	North: 116	<18 = 12	up to 12 weeks = 493				North: 134	<18 = 20	up to 12 weeks = 651		
	South: 152	18-30 = 318	13 - 23 = 0				South: 188	18-30 = 416	13 - 23 = 0		
	East: 82	31-40 = 153	23 + = 0				East: 151	31-40 = 194	23 + = 0		
	West: 141	40+ = 10					West: 175	40+ = 21			
	Outside Belfast: 2						Outside Belfast: 4				

Please note that ethnicity is not recorded.

Royal Jubilee Maternity Services (RJMS)  
All terminations carried out by manual vacuum aspiration or via feticide procedure

**RJMS TOTALS**

**RJMS TOTALS**

**Total (35)**

**Belfast District Areas;  
Gestation;**

**Age;**

North:	9	18-30: 13	up to 12 weeks: 3
South:	4	31-40: 18	13-23 weeks: 31
East:	2	40+: 4	23+ weeks: 1
West:	2		
Outside Belfast:	18		

17 January 2023

**RJMS total**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total	3	15	17

- 5. In the date range of end of June 2022 to the present, please provide copies of all incidents entered into the Trust's Incident Management System (Datix) that relate to anti-abortion activities outside the Trust's abortion facility at College Street, Belfast. The details provided should include the date of the incident, the description of the incident, the action taken, the severity level of these incidents and the date on which the incidents were entered into the system. Any information that could identify an individual should be redacted.**

Please see attached in separate document.