

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8511

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to sterile water injection.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.
I am doing a project evaluation about the introduction of sterile water injection in a hospital (quality improvement project).*

I've seen this hospital uses it. I need information about how this was implemented in the hospital (stakeholders that was needed for the implementation etc).

Moreover, if there is any data around it (audits, women's feedback etc) would be really helpful. Any data around it would be useful.

Trust response:

We introduced Sterile Water for Injection (SWI) to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust maternity as a PGD in 2014.

Stakeholders included -

Senior Midwives
Consultant Midwife
Matron for Community
Head of Midwifery
Clinical Director
Chief Pharmacist
Trust Medical Director
Consultant Anaesthetist

As well as the PGD, we developed a patient information leaflet and audit tool.

We audited the use of SWI and patient satisfaction by developing an audit tool, which was filled in by staff, each time it was used.

We used the audit tool for 12 months to gather sufficient data to analyse. As SWI is only used for persistent back pain associated with OP positioning of the baby, it doesn't have high use and therefore it does take a while to gather data. As we introduced SWI 10 years ago, the audits have now been archived and I am unable to share them with you.

We quickly saw that whilst women dislike the initial pain caused by the bleb formation, there is a high satisfaction rate for the alleviation of persistent back pain.

We asked women to give a score out of 10 (using the VAS score) prior to SWI and again, 10 minutes after receiving the injections.

Women should start with a VAS score equal to or greater than 6, for SWI to be administered.

ALL women reported a lower or significantly lower VAS score, 10 minutes after administration.

We used the audit tool to document -
pain scores

how long women experienced relief for

whether SWI was repeated

birth outcome i.e. SVD, Apgars etc.