

Ref. No: 0256
Date: 14/09/23
Subject: Hysteroscopy Inpatient and Outpatient Pathways

REQUEST

1. Does your Trust currently have both an inpatient (day-case) pathway and an outpatient pathway for hysteroscopy?
2. Currently, roughly what percentage of your Trust's hysteroscopies are done with an anaesthetist?
 - a. diagnostic?
 - b. operative (e.g. polypectomy, myomectomy, endometrial ablation)?
3. What is the current approximate waiting time in weeks for a patient who asks for a general anaesthetic, spinal anaesthetic or IV sedation with analgesia for hysteroscopy?
 - a. under the 2 week wait as an urgent referral for suspected womb cancer?
 - b. not under the 2 week wait?
4. Has your Trust adopted, or is your Trust adopting the NHS Getting It Right First Time (Maternity & Gynaecology Report) targets of:
 - a. 90% diagnostic hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?
 - b. 50% operative hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?
5. May I have a copy of the full range of pain scores obtained by your Trust in the BSGE 2019 outpatient hysteroscopy benchmarking survey?
6. Is Entonox or Pentrox routinely available to all your outpatient hysteroscopy patients?
7. Are local anaesthetic paracervical blocks routinely available in outpatients?
8. Please may I see any audits of hysteroscopic procedures during the last 5 years?
9. Are pain scores taken at all your outpatient hysteroscopy clinics?

10. Does your Trust have a Procedural Sedation Analgesia clinic for 'minor gynae' including hysteroscopy?

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such we have provided the response in two sections (where necessary) relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. Does your Trust currently have both an inpatient (day-case) pathway and an outpatient pathway for hysteroscopy?

Yes

2. Currently, roughly what percentage of your Trust's hysteroscopies are done with an anaesthetist?

- a. diagnostic?
- b. operative (e.g. polypectomy, myomectomy, endometrial ablation)?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

All inpatient scopes have an anaesthetist in attendance, even if LA or sedation.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

All inpatient scopes have an anaesthetist in attendance, even if LA or sedation. Outpatient Hysteroscopies are not done with an anaesthetist.

3. What is the current approximate waiting time in weeks for a patient who asks for a general anaesthetic, spinal anaesthetic or IV sedation with analgesia for hysteroscopy?

- a. under the 2 week wait as an urgent referral for suspected womb cancer?
- b. not under the 2 week wait?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

- a. we accommodate within two weeks.
- b. if a hysteroscopy, this would be a diagnostic treatment and therefore performed within 6 weeks.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

- a. we accommodate within two weeks for most cases.

- b. if a hysteroscopy, this would be a diagnostic treatment and therefore performed within 6 weeks for most cases.
 - a. Unless patient choice delay

4. Has your Trust adopted, or is your Trust adopting the NHS Getting It Right First Time (Maternity & Gynaecology Report) targets of:

- a. 90% diagnostic hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?
- b. 50% operative hysteroscopies to be done in outpatients?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

We have not formally adopted these targets. Our last audit suggested 91% of scopes were successful in outpatients but this did not note how many were not referred to outpatients in the first place.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

Yes

5. May I have a copy of the full range of pain scores obtained by your Trust in the BSGE 2019 outpatient hysteroscopy benchmarking survey?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

What would be the worst level of discomfort or pain you might experience (or used to experience) during a period on a scale of 1-10?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	4	4	3	6	12	6	13	23	4	6

Mean pain score 6.32

What level of discomfort or pain you experienced during the procedure on the same scale of 1-10?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	3	7	8	10	10	7	7	17	7	5

Mean pain score 5.81

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

This information is not held.

6. Is Entonox or Pentrox routinely available to all your outpatient hysteroscopy patients?

Yes, Entonox.

7. Are local anaesthetic paracervical blocks routinely available in outpatients?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

These are available but rarely used – many patients have reported that the paracervical block is more uncomfortable than the procedure itself.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

No

8. Please may I see any audits of hysteroscopic procedures during the last 5 years?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

Three audits have been conducted in this time period.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

One audit has been conducted in this time period.

Due the low number of patients described in the audited time periods and their unique nature the Trust is withholding the full description under Section 40 – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act due to likelihood of identification of the individual(s).

If the requestor or any other member of the general public can, on the balance of probabilities, identify individuals by cross-referencing the anonymised data with other information that was available to them, then the information is personal data and exempt from disclosure under the Act.

Patients who have been part of the audit would have a reasonable expectation that the details may be required for monitoring and reporting purposes to improve future health outcomes however would not expect the information to be released under the Freedom of Information Act to the general public. To release the information would not be a fair use therefore breaching Principle One of the Data Protection Act.

9. Are pain scores taken at all your outpatient hysteroscopy clinics?

St Helens and Knowsley Sites

We have not formally adopted these targets. Our last audit suggested 91% of scopes were successful in outpatients but this did not note how many were not referred to outpatients in the first place.

Southport and Ormskirk Sites

Not performed

10. Does your Trust have a Procedural Sedation Analgesia clinic for 'minor gynae' including hysteroscopy?

No