

I am part of a team working on a project to improve the lives of women after childbirth. Currently, early diagnosis of sphincter damage during natural childbirth is the subject of many scientific studies.

We want to take a closer look at this problem as we are aware that diagnosis of this condition is necessary to define a prompt therapeutic strategy and thus avoid the development of further consequences, such as faecal or urinary incontinence.

Bearing in mind that the problem affects many women all over the world, we want to gather information on the solutions used in different countries in this field. How is this coped with in UK?

Please note that all responses provided below relate to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board only.

a. Therefore, I would like to ask you whether the standard perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage in UK is a screening test that is a guaranteed, publicly funded service?

The Health Board has a postnatal care local pathway if obstetric anal sphincter damage diagnosed or suspected.

b. Are there any regulations, i.e. laws, legal acts that clearly stipulate what procedures a doctor should follow during natural childbirth?

A doctor does not usually get involved in natural childbirth. Midwives follow the Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASI) care bundle regarding perineal protection during natural childbirth. This is guidance and is not law or a legal act.

c. Please indicate also the specific legal rules, including regulations and systemic restrictions regarding the above.

Not applicable.

In addition, do you have information on the number of medical procedures performed under the ICD-10 codes in 2019-2023 in UK?

070 Bristning af mellemkød og slimhinder ved fødsel

0700 Fødselslæsion grad 1

0701 Fødselslæsion grad 2

0702 Fødselslæsion grad 3

0703 Fødselslæsion grad 4

0709 Fødselslæsion i mellemkød og slimhinder UNS

Please find below the number of patients with a hospital admission in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board from January 2019 to March 2023 with the following ICD-10 diagnosis codes coded:

ICD10 Code	Code Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
O700	First degree perineal laceration during delivery	1178	953	757	730	97
O701	Second degree perineal laceration during delivery	1170	1117	882	771	92
O702	Third degree perineal laceration during delivery	59	87	30	26	4
O703	Fourth degree perineal laceration during delivery	2	4	4	6	-
O709	Perineal laceration during delivery, unspecified	12	9	5	40	2
O710	Rupture of uterus before onset of labour	1	-	-	1	-
O711	Rupture of uterus during labour	-	3	3	-	1
O712	Postpartum inversion of uterus	-	-	-	1	-
O713	Obstetric laceration of cervix	1	2	6	3	-
O714	Obstetric high vaginal laceration	8	18	13	7	-
O715	Other obstetric laceration to pelvic organs	10	9	9	5	1
O716	Obstetric damage to pelvic joints and ligaments	1	4	1	-	-
O717	Obstetric haematoma of pelvis	10	12	2	3	3
O718	Other specified obstetric trauma	23	3	4	4	-
O719	Obstetric trauma unspecified	-	1	1	-	-
R15X	Faecal incontinence	13	5	3	4	-

Please note R15X – faecal incontinence – these are patients who were under the care of gynaecology, obstetrics and midwifery only.

1. O71 - other obstetric trauma, incl.: O71.8

Please refer to Qc.

2. R15-incontinence

Please refer to Qc.