

Maternity care pathway reports: postnatal care



Survey of women's experiences of maternity services 2013
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The national survey of women's experiences of maternity services 2013 was designed, developed and co-ordinated by the Co-ordination Centre for the NHS Patient Survey Programme at Picker Institute Europe.



Making patients' views count

National NHS patient survey programme

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CQC Maternity care pathway reports: postnatal care

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.

Our purpose:

We make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and we encourage care services to improve.

Our role:

We monitor, inspect and regulate services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and we publish what we find, including performance ratings to help people choose care.

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To improve the quality of services that the NHS delivers, it is important to understand what service users think about their care and treatment. One way of doing this is by asking people who have recently used their local health services to tell us about their experiences.

Information drawn from the questions in the maternity survey will be considered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of its new Hospital Intelligent Monitoring. NHS England will use the results to check progress and improvement against the objectives set out in the NHS mandate, and the Department of Health will hold them to account for the outcomes they achieve. The Trust Development Authority will use the results to inform the quality and governance assessment as part of their Oversight Model for NHS Trusts.

The 2013 survey of women's experiences of maternity services involved 137 NHS acute trusts in England. We received responses from more than 23,000 service users, a response rate of 46%. Women were eligible for the survey if they had a live birth during February 2013¹, were aged 16 years or older, gave birth in a hospital, birth centre, maternity unit, or who had a home birth. NHS Trusts in England took part in the survey if they had a sufficient number of eligible women that give birth at their NHS trust during the sampling time frame.

Similar surveys of maternity services were carried out in 2010 and 2007. They are part of a wider programme of NHS patient surveys which covers a range of topics including acute inpatient, outpatient, and A&E services, ambulances, and community mental health services. To find out more about our programme and the results from previous surveys, please see the links in the further information section.

This report contains the benchmarked results for this and 85 other trusts for the postnatal care section of the questionnaire. When answering questions in the survey about labour and birth, we can be confident that in all cases women were referring to the acute trust from which they were sampled from. Hence it is possible to compare the results for labour and birth across all 137 NHS trusts that took part in the survey. The survey also asked women about their experiences of antenatal and postnatal care, to cover the entire pregnancy and birth for completeness. However, some women who gave birth at an acute trust may not have received their antenatal and postnatal care from that same trust. This could be due to one of several reasons, such as: having moved home, having to travel for more specialist care, or due to variation in the provision of services across the country.

For this survey, we asked trusts to complete an additional piece of work to identify which of the

¹Some trusts with a small number of women delivering in February would have also included women who gave birth in January 2013, one NHS trust included women who gave birth in March. For further details on women excluded from the survey, please see the survey guidance manual at: <http://www.nhssurveys.org/survey/1250>

women in their sample were likely to have also received their postnatal care from the same trust at which they gave birth, and 86 trusts that took part in the survey were able to do this. The aim was to help trusts to gain the insight to improve services, by improving the accuracy when attributing survey responses to the care provider.

The trusts that completed the exercise used location information of respondents to identify which women were resident within their boundaries, and responses from those women were used to calculate scores for the antenatal and postnatal survey data for each trust. The scores for postnatal care relating to the 86 trusts have been provided in this report and in a separate antenatal care report (93 trusts were able to provide information for antenatal care). The data cannot be considered as statistically robust as the data for labour and birth, for several reasons:

1. Although the value of the data is improved when looking at individual trust performance, due to the more accurate attribution of responses to provider, the lack of complete coverage across all trusts means that we cannot fairly say that one trust is 'better' or 'worse' than all others. Hence trusts are only identified as being 'better' or 'worse' within the subset of trusts that completed the attribution exercise. We cannot say that the subset of trusts is representative of all trusts, and so it is not a true benchmark for performance across England.
2. The attribution was based on the location of respondents. There was no means available to identify women who had received care from a different provider for other reasons, such as due to requiring specialist care, or having moved house during pregnancy. So although the attribution exercise improved the data to a considerable degree, it may remain that some respondents are included in the data despite having received care from another trust.
3. The NHS trusts completed the attribution themselves, and due to the limitations of the process the co-ordination centre were unable to verify the accuracy of the exercise. This means we cannot be certain about the reliability of the attribution of the data.

The antenatal and postnatal survey data from the trusts that completed the attribution exercise will be shared with those trusts. The data will be considered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to inform its Intelligent Monitoring and will be shared with CQC inspectors. The reports will be published on the NHS Surveys website, but should be viewed with caution for the reasons described above.

Interpreting the report

This report shows how a trust scored for each question in the postnatal care section of the survey, compared with the range of results from the other 85 trusts that completed the attribution exercise. It is designed to help understand the performance of individual trusts, and to identify areas for improvement.

A 'section' score is also provided, labelled S6 and S7 in the 'section scores' on page 5. The scores for each question are grouped according to the sections of the questionnaire, which are 'Feeding' and 'Care at home after the birth'.

Standardisation

Trusts have differing profiles of maternity service users; for example, one trust may have more 'first time' mothers than another. This is significant because whether a woman has given birth previously (parity) could influence their experiences and could potentially lead to a trust's results appearing better or worse than if they had a slightly different profile of maternity service users. To account for this, we 'standardise' the data. Results have been standardised by parity and age of respondent, to ensure that no trust will appear better or worse than another because of its respondent profile. This helps to ensure that each trust's age-parity profile reflects the national age-parity distribution (based on all of the respondents to the survey). It therefore enables a more fair comparison of results from trusts with different profiles of maternity service users.

Scoring

For each question in the survey, the individual responses were converted into scores on a scale of 0 to 10. A score of 10 represents the best possible response. Therefore, the higher the score for each question, the better the trust is performing. It is not appropriate to score all questions within the questionnaire; this is because not all of the questions assess the trusts in any way.

Graphs

The graphs in this report display the range of scores achieved by the subset of trusts that completed the attribution exercise, from the lowest score achieved (left hand side) to the highest score achieved (right hand side).

The black diamond shows the score for your trust. The black diamond (score) is not shown for questions answered by fewer than 30 people because the uncertainty around the result would be too great. The trust will also not have a section score for the corresponding section; this is because the section data is not comparable with other trusts, as it is made up of fewer questions.

The graph is divided into three sections:

- If your trust score lies in the orange section of the graph, your trust result is 'about the same' as most other trusts in the survey.
- If your trust score lies in the red section of the graph, your trust result is 'worse' compared with most other trusts in the survey.
- If your trust score lies in the green section of the graph, your trust result is 'better' compared with most other trusts in the survey.

The text to the right of the graph clearly states whether the score for your trust is 'better' or 'worse' compared with most other trusts included in this analysis. If there is no text here then your trust is 'about the same'.

You may find that there is no red area, and/or no green area in the charts shown for some questions. This can occur in the analysis of the data and is an acceptable consequence of the statistical technique that is used. The size of the orange area is constructed by considering how different all trust scores are across the range, as well as the confidence we can have in that particular trust's score (by looking at the number of respondents to that question). In some cases, this will lead to such a wide margin of error that the 'expected range' (the orange section) will be very wide, and therefore will also cover the highest or lowest scoring trusts for that question.

Methodology

The categories described above are based on a statistic called the 'expected range' which is uniquely calculated for each trust for each question. This is the range within which we would expect a particular trust to score if it performed 'about the same' as most other trusts in the survey. The range takes into account the number of respondents from each trust as well as the scores for all other trusts. This means that where a trust is performing 'better' or 'worse' than the majority of other trusts, this is likely to be a true reflection of all service users that have visited the trust, rather than being unique to those who responded to the survey.

A technical document providing more detail about the methodology and the scoring applied to each question is available on our website (see further information section below).

Tables

At the end of the report you will find tables containing the data used to create the graphs.

Please note that comparative data is not shown because it is not possible to tell from the 2010 survey data which women received their antenatal care from the same trust at which they gave birth.

Notes on specific questions

Question E3: The question was answered only by women who did not breastfeed.

The following questions were not answered by women who did not see a midwife postnatally: **F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10 and F11.**

Question G3: The question was answered only by those who have had a previous pregnancy.

Question G5: The question was answered only by those with a long-standing condition.

Further information

The full national results for the 2013 survey are on the CQC website, including the reports for all NHS trusts for the 'labour and birth' section of the questionnaire, and the technical document outlining the methodology and the scoring applied to each question:

www.cqc.org.uk/PatientSurveyMaternity2013

This report and the equivalent reports for antenatal care are available on the NHS surveys website, along with more detail on the attribution exercise:

www.nhssurveys.org

The results for the 2007 and 2010 surveys can be found on the NHS surveys website at:

www.nhssurveys.org/surveys/299

Full details of the methodology for the survey can be found at:

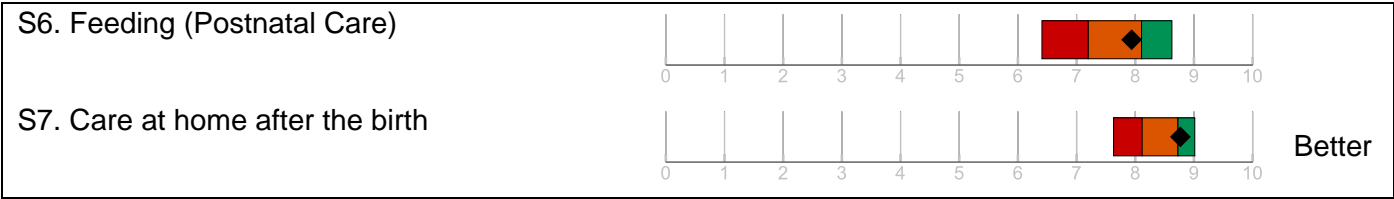
www.nhssurveys.org/survey/1250

More information on the programme of NHS patient surveys is available at:

www.cqc.org.uk/public/reports-surveys-and-reviews/surveys

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Section scores

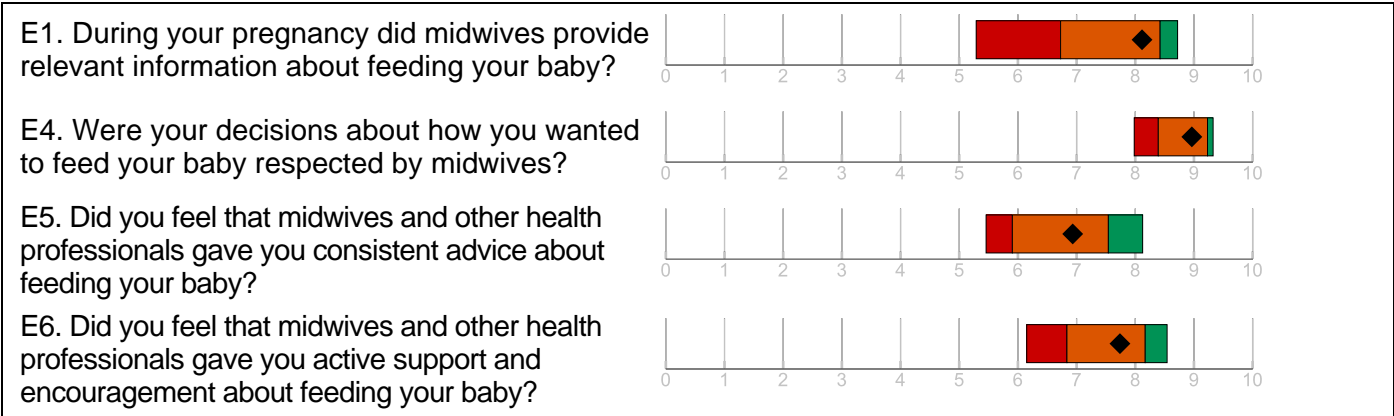


	Best performing trusts	'Better/Worse'	Only displayed when this trust is better/worse than most other trusts
	About the same		
	Worst performing trusts		This trust's score (NB: Not shown where there are fewer than 30 respondents)

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Feeding (Postnatal Care)

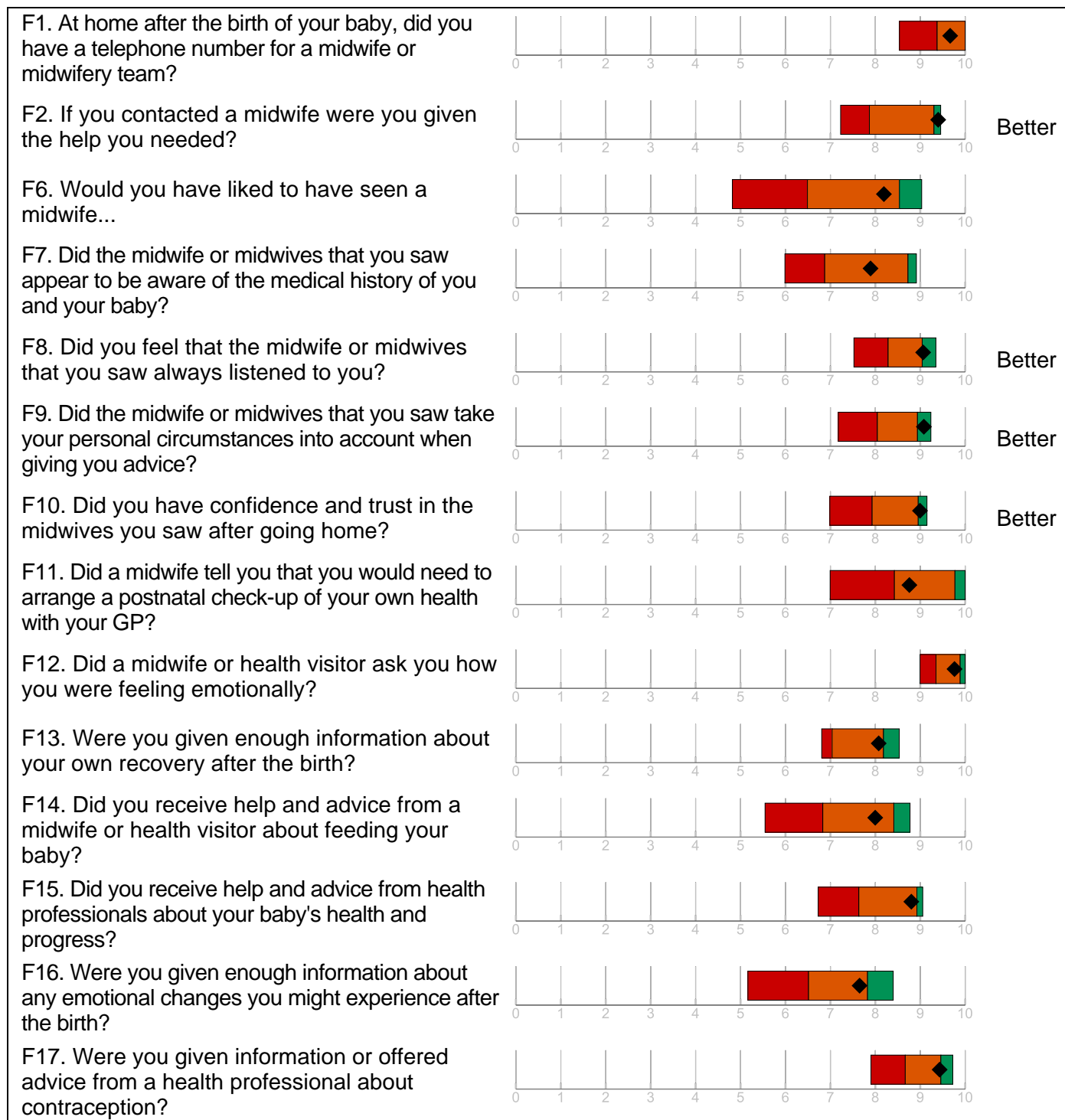


Best performing trusts	'Better/Worse'	Only displayed when this trust is better/worse than most other trusts
About the same	◆	This trust's score (NB: Not shown where there are fewer than 30 respondents)
Worst performing trusts		

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Care at home after the birth



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		Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score achieved	Highest trust score achieved	Number of respondents (this trust)
Feeding (Postnatal Care)					
S6	Section score	7.9	6.4	8.6	
E1	During your pregnancy did midwives provide relevant information about feeding your baby?	8.1	5.3	8.7	108
E4	Were your decisions about how you wanted to feed your baby respected by midwives?	9.0	8.0	9.3	116
E5	Did you feel that midwives and other health professionals gave you consistent advice about feeding your baby?	6.9	5.5	8.1	111
E6	Did you feel that midwives and other health professionals gave you active support and encouragement about feeding your baby?	7.7	6.1	8.5	108
Care at home after the birth					
S7	Section score	8.8	7.6	9.0	
F1	At home after the birth of your baby, did you have a telephone number for a midwife or midwifery team?	9.7	8.5	10.0	119
F2	If you contacted a midwife were you given the help you needed?	9.4	7.2	9.5	55
F6	Would you have liked to have seen a midwife...	8.2	4.8	9.0	115
F7	Did the midwife or midwives that you saw appear to be aware of the medical history of you and your baby?	7.9	6.0	8.9	109
F8	Did you feel that the midwife or midwives that you saw always listened to you?	9.1	7.5	9.3	114
F9	Did the midwife or midwives that you saw take your personal circumstances into account when giving you advice?	9.1	7.2	9.2	99
F10	Did you have confidence and trust in the midwives you saw after going home?	9.0	7.0	9.1	114
F11	Did a midwife tell you that you would need to arrange a postnatal check-up of your own health with your GP?	8.8	7.0	10.0	109
F12	Did a midwife or health visitor ask you how you were feeling emotionally?	9.8	9.0	10.0	117
F13	Were you given enough information about your own recovery after the birth?	8.1	6.8	8.5	118
F14	Did you receive help and advice from a midwife or health visitor about feeding your baby?	8.0	5.5	8.8	107
F15	Did you receive help and advice from health professionals about your baby's health and progress?	8.8	6.7	9.1	113
F16	Were you given enough information about any emotional changes you might experience after the birth?	7.7	5.2	8.4	111
F17	Were you given information or offered advice from a health professional about contraception?	9.4	7.9	9.7	119