



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd Dros Dro/Interim Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Tracy Myhill**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

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Your ref/Eich Cyf:

Our Ref/Ein Cyf: RHE/SJ/CB/saj

Date 31 July 2019

Mr E Morris
Chair, NMPA Project Board
Vice President, Clinical Quality
Lindsay Stewart Centre for Audit and Clinical Informatics
Royal College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists
27 Sussex Place
Regent's Park
London
NW1 4RG

Dear Mr Morris,

Thank you for your letter in relation to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU HB) having been highlighted as a potential outlier for two of three selected NMPA performance indicators. This was based on clinical outcomes for births that took place between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017.

- Proportion of women who sustained a 3rd or 4th degree perineal tear
- Proportion of women with an obstetric haemorrhage of 1500mls or more

We have carefully reviewed the results produced looking at the quality and accuracy of data as well as organisational and clinical factors, which may have played a part in the data.

ABMUHB 3rd/4th degree tear rate of 4.6% adjusted to 5.0% compared to national mean of 3.5%

There were some discrepancies between the health board maternity information system (WPAS) and NMPA outcome data. Our further investigation highlighted that additional data was used by NMPA from PEDW (Coding) which showed a slightly higher rate. WPAS and PEDW data were both analysed and cross-referenced which noted five cases recorded on PEDW during this period had been recorded twice. This is most likely due to the woman receiving two episodes of care recorded in different settings relating to the same outcome i.e. third degree tear occurred in a midwifery led setting and then a further episode recorded when woman transferred to an obstetric unit for repair of the tear. If these five cases were



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removed from original figures, although the figure would be marginally less it would still put the health board as an outlier for this period.

As the data outcomes are for a period two to three years ago, we have looked at data from April 2017 - March 2018 as well as outcome data for period April 2018 - March 2019 and unadjusted rates are 3.4% and 3.6% respectively.

ABMUHB obstetric haemorrhage of 1500mls or greater rate of 3.8% adjusted to 3.9% compared to national mean of 2.9%

Following review of the results, we confirm that the NMPA data is correct confirming ABMU HB to be an outlier.

Significant to this data was a change in clinical practice that was implemented late in 2016. This was an All Wales Quality Improvement Programme to improve outcomes for women who have a post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) known as OBS Cymru. This is the most likely factor for the reporting of increased rates of PPH.

Evidence suggests staff are poor at estimating blood loss leading to delays in interventions resulting in increased morbidity for women. One of the measures introduced by OBS Cymru was accurate measurement of blood loss following birth. Following the implementation of Obs Cymru and on further analysis of data in 2017, it was identified not all staff were changing bedding following birth therefore the recorded measured blood loss included liquor. This has now been rectified but the data does not reflect this until 2018.

Whilst we have been identified as outliers for haemorrhages, the administration of red blood cells and fresh frozen plasma have almost halved since 2016, reducing the need for blood transfusion and invasive surgical management to control haemorrhage.

Our local data indicates the PPH rate continued to rise in 2017-2018 to an unadjusted rate of 4.7% and declined to an unadjusted rate of 3.8 in the period 2018-2019 as the OBS CYMRU care pathway has become embedded into practice.

For your information and for the purposes of next year's audit, I would like to make you aware of the fact that in April 2019, the Princess of Wales Hospital transferred to Cwm Taf University Health Board and is now managed by the newly named Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. Singleton Hospital and Neath Port Talbot Hospital are both managed by within this organisation, which has changed its name to Swansea Bay University Health Board.

I hope that this provides you with the assurance that we are actively scrutinising our outcomes and making changes to improve the quality and safety of our clinical services.

Yours sincerely



PROFESSOR RICHARD H. EVANS
EXECUTIVE MEDICAL DIRECTOR