

### ***Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000***

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

**1. Do each of your maternity units which offer consultant-led births have two obstetric theatres available 24/7 with a full complement of staff available should the second theatre be needed? How long does it take to mobilise the second theatre and staff if it needed?**

Yes '9.1 Obstetrics environment The Operating Department provides theatre services for emergency and planned obstetric procedures. Theatre 1 is reserved for elective obstetric surgery on a planned schedule and Theatre 3 is reserved for emergency obstetric surgery 24 hours a day 7 days a week.'

**2. If you don't have a second obstetric theatre, what arrangements are in place should you have two obstetric emergencies requiring theatres at the same time? What hours are covered by these arrangements?**

'3.4 In the event of a 'category 1 caesarean' or 'major obstetric haemorrhage' bleep, the Theatre Co-Ordinator will identify an available theatre. The theatre staff and Anaesthetist for the allocated theatre will act as the team for the second emergency case.

If there is no empty theatre, the procedure will need to take place in recovery. However, this should be a last resort. The on-call Consultant Anaesthetist will be the anaesthetist for the procedure in recovery unless they can allocate another anaesthetist. (The on-call Consultant Anaesthetist does not carry an emergency baton bleep; they will need to be contacted via mobile.)

An ODP, a scrub nurse and circulator will be arranged by the Phase 1 Theatre Co-Ordinator. Recovery staff will move patients from Bay 5 (designated bay) to another bay or to an available anaesthetic room.

All available staff will help to set up the recovery area to receive the patient.'(See SOP 210 attached)

**3. If you don't have a second obstetric theatre, have you any plans to establish one? Has funding been obtained and how much?**

New Women's & Children building planned with 2 designated obstetric theatres within the footprint.

**4. How long approximately does it take to transfer a woman from the labour ward to 1. Your normal obstetric theatre? 2. Whichever additional theatre would be used in the event of two emergencies at the same time?**

See Attachment: Theatres Operational Policy

**5. Have you had any serious incidents/Datix (or other reporting system) reports in the last three years involving lack of timely access to fully staffed theatres in maternity emergencies?**

Yes, 2

19/01/2023

Summary:

Multiple simultaneous complex cases requiring Obstetric Theatre management.

What happened:

MDT discussion including Registrar and Consultant to determine risks and mitigations.

Recommendations:

Second theatre to be only opened only if need for Category 1 CS while Obstetric Emergency Theatre in use. Decision to be taken only after discussion between reg, coordinator and consultant on call for Obstetrics & Anaesthetics Consultant to come in if support required or if 2 theatres need to be opened. Clear SBAR

13/01/2023

Summary:

Elective LSCS started at 11:00 in maternity elective theatre Category 2 LSCS in progress in maternity emergency theatre - transferred to recovery 11:27. MOH following vaginal birth. Medication given as required and transferred to theatre for examination under anaesthetic as continuing to bleed As both obstetric theatres were in use provision was made to use an alternative theatre Following review by consultant decision made to wait for emergency theatre as category LSCS almost complete.

Recommendations:

Good teamwork between maternity and theatre staff for alternative solution for a theatre Appropriate action taken at the time Elective and Emergency theatre already in use when MOH call made and decision taken to transfer for examination under anaesthesia.

**6. Please attach any policies you have on maternity emergencies/escalation.**

Please see attached document.

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator  
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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