

Ref. No: 2611
Date: 08/06/26
Subject: Maternity red flag event

REQUEST

Please provide the following information for maternity services at your Trust for the period **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**. If full-year 2025 data is not yet available, please provide the latest available 2025 year-to-date data and state the period covered.

1. Number of maternity red flag events

Please provide the total number of maternity red flag events recorded during the period, broken down by:

- Ward or unit name
- Category or type of red flag event, using the categories recorded by the Trust

For clarity, I am referring to red flag events as described in NICE safe midwifery staffing guidance, including events recorded as part of maternity staffing exception reporting.

2. Categories / definitions used

Please provide the list of red flag event categories used by the Trust during the period, including any definitions or descriptions used internally for recording or reporting purposes.

3. Escalation

Please also provide the following for the same time period if available:

- The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust closed due to staffing pressures. Please include the start and end date/time.
- The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust was operating under escalation due to staffing or capacity pressures. Please include the relevant escalation level and start and end date/time.

RESPONSE

1.

Midwifery Red Flag	Ormskirk Site			Whiston Site		
	Maternity Ward	Delivery Suite	Triage	Maternity Ward 2E	Delivery Suite	Triage
Missed medication during admission to hospital (eg diabetes meds)	<5	<5	0	0	0	0
Delayed or cancelled time critical activity	0	7	<	0	0	9
Delivery Suite coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status	0	<5	0	0	0	0
Missed or delayed care (eg delay of 60mins or more washing/suturing)	0	<5	0	<5	<5	<5
Delay of 15 mins or more between presentation and triage	0	0	<5	0	0	67
Delay of 30 mins or more between presentation and triage	0	0	0	0	0	<5
Delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of process	<5	<5	0	0	<5	0
Delay of more than 30 mins providing pain relief	0	0	0	0	0	<5

2. The full list of Midwifery Red flags we use at MWL are :

- Missed medication during admission to hospital (eg diabetes meds)
- Delayed or cancelled time critical activity
- Delivery suite coordinator – unable to maintain supernumerary status
- Missed or delayed care (eg delay of 60 mins or more washing/suturing)
- Delay of 15 mins or more between presentation and triage
- Delay of 30mins or more between presentation and triage
- Delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of process
- Delay of more than 30 mins providing pain relief

- Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example sepsis or urine output)
- Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour
- Midwife not able to provide continuous 1-2- care and support during established labour

The highlighted categories are local MWL Trust Midwifery Red Flags that are not included in the NICE recommendations, but we wish to monitor as incidents within the maternity service and relate to staffing.

3. Escalation

Please also provide the following for the same time period if available:

The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust closed due to staffing pressures. Please include the start and end date/time.

During the time period we had no periods within the Trust where either site maternity unit was closed due to staffing pressures.

The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust was operating under escalation due to staffing or capacity pressures. Please include the relevant escalation level and start and end date/time.

The section 12 is for Q3 part 2.

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for NHS organisations. This equates to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.