

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-359

30 May 2025

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

Hospital Name: St Michael's Hospital

Trust: University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

Maternity Medicine Network: South West Maternal Medicine Network

Secondary/Tertiary Care: University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

Pre-pregnancy planning in women with epilepsy		
1a	Do women with epilepsy have access to a pre-pregnancy counselling clinic in your centre?	Yes - Yes, Maternal Medicine Pre-Pregnancy Clinic No
1b	If pre-pregnancy counselling is available in your centre, who delivers this/these services? (Please tick all that apply)	A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialty nurse An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician

		An obstetrician physician An epilepsy specialist midwife Maternal medicine obstetrician
1c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in question 1b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	They work separately - ✓ They work together in a joint clinic
1d	How are patients transferred into the pre-pregnancy clinic? (Please tick all that apply)	From their General Practitioner (GP) - ✓ From their secondary care epilepsy service - ✓ Other – please state:

<u>Antenatal</u> management		
2	Do your patients have access to written information on the management of epilepsy in pregnancy?	Yes No
3a	Do women with epilepsy in your centre have access to regular planned antenatal care with a designated epilepsy care team?	Yes - ✓ No
3b	If yes, which of the following healthcare professionals deliver the service?	A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor

	(Please tick all that apply)	A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialist nurse An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician An obstetric physician An epilepsy specialist midwife Maternal medicine obstetrician
3c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in questions 3b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	They work separately They work together in a joint clinic - ✓
3d	How do women with epilepsy enter the service? (Please tick all that apply)	Identified at their booking appointment - ✓ From their General Practitioner (GP) - ✓ From their secondary care epilepsy service - ✓ Other – please state:
3e	If yes, how often are they reviewed in your epilepsy pregnancy clinic?	Fortnight Monthly - ✓ Bimonthly Once per trimester Other – please state:
4	Are women with epilepsy risk stratified in your antenatal service?	Yes - ✓ No

4b	If yes, how is the risk assessment done?	Using a risk stratification tool : please state which Other – please state: Risk assessed by epilepsy nurse/epilepsy team
4c	If so do those women considered 'higher risk' have a different care pathway to those considered 'lower risk'	Yes - ✓ No If yes, please detail how these pathways differ: They may be seen more regularly in the ante-natal clinic.

Medication management		
5	How does your service manage folic acid use in women with epilepsy?	Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy, then drop to 400mcg for the remainder of the pregnancy - ✓ Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy Other – please state
6	How does your service manage titration of antiseizure medications in pregnancy? (Please tick all that apply)	Using drug levels Using clinical symptoms Using both drugs levels and clinical symptoms - ✓ Other – please state:

7	Does your centre routinely measure drug levels in women with epilepsy?	Yes - ✓ No
8a	Do you use long-acting benzodiazepines, such as clobazam, in the peripartum period for women with 'high risk' of seizures during this period?	Yes - ✓ No
8b	If yes, what is your routine drug/dose/regimen	Clobazam
8c	If yes, what are the criteria for women being considered 'high risk'?	Seizures in pregnancy History of red flag symptoms e.g. nocturnal symptoms

<u>Postpartum</u> follow up for women with epilepsy		
9	How are women with epilepsy in your service followed up postpartum?	In a postpartum pregnancy clinic In their usual epilepsy clinic - ✓ By their GP - ✓ There is no routine follow-up

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust