



The Royal College of Midwives
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The Royal College of Midwives' response to Tissue pathway for histopathological examination of the placenta

The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) is the professional organisation and trade union that represents the vast majority of practising midwives in the UK. It is the only such organisation run by midwives for midwives. The RCM is the voice of midwifery, providing excellence in representation, professional leadership, education and influence for and on behalf of midwives. We actively support and campaign for improvements to maternity services and provide professional leadership for one of the most established clinical disciplines.

The RCM welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation and our views are set out below.

Page 4 General introduction

Identifying and promoting standards of good practice is welcome and builds further confidence in the services provided.

2.2 Lab facilities

lines 7 - 25

What provisions will be available if local services do not meet the minimum standards? Will placentae be transferred to nearby services and who meets the cost?

Lines 2.2 – 27

What is the purpose of storing reports? Who is the information shared with and how is GDPR met?

3.1 staffing and workload

Lines 41 - 45

It is our understanding that there is currently a shortage of specialists in perinatal pathology – what impact will the proposed pathway have and what contingencies could be put in place to ensure standards are maintained?

3.2 Specimen submission

Lines 49-9

The woman needs to be part of the decision when sending tissue for pathology – she needs to be aware of the benefits to her and her baby and how any information learnt will be used for her and

her baby as well as for audit/learning processes. Consent should be obtained and the parents aware of timeframe for reporting and limitations of the process.

The suggested list of indications for referral is extensive – is this list more comprehensive than current guidance? If so – where is the evidence of the value of examination of placenta in cases identified? If this is an increase in workload how will capacity be met? There is also the issue of additional costs.

3.3 onwards

The expertise on processes and recording of findings is sits with the pathologists. However, the approach seems to be clear and comprehensive

**The Royal College of Midwives
16 July 2019**