

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 11th February 2025

FOI Ref No 27692

Requested Information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide the following information regarding the referral process at your NHS Trust:

Number of Referrals

The number of referrals for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births for each of the following calendar years:

2019 data unavailable

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

The average wait in days from referral for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births to that support beginning for patients for each of the following calendar years:

2019

2020

2022

2023

2024

The longest current wait in days from referral for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births to that support beginning for patients.

Response:

The number of referrals for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births for each of the following calendar years:

Information Governance

Version No: 1

Review Date: 2028

2019 data unavailable for traumatic births – data for miscarriages = 22
2020 206
2021 330
2022 331
2023 380
2024 378

The average wait in days from referral for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births to that support beginning for patients for each of the following calendar years:

This is the data following traumatic births:

2019 data unavailable
2020 18 days
2021 From 2021 it became policy that we would not see people until 6 weeks postnatally, due to the way trauma affects the brain. So, depending on when referral was after birth, the average wait was around 28-42 days
2022 28-42 days
2023 28-42 days
2024 28-42 days

This is the response regarding miscarriages:

Bereavement Midwives (BMWs) cover Mon-Friday cover and telephone 'on-call' cover at the weekend. The maximum time that a family could wait to see or speak with the BMWs could be 2 days if their diagnosis occurred on a Friday evening.

We do not have access to the 'waiting times' for services as we do not refer the patient.

The longest current wait in days from referral for support, counselling, or specialist services made following miscarriages or traumatic births to that support beginning for patients.

For traumatic births- 42 days is the longest wait, if referred from birth.

Regarding miscarriages: we do not have access to the 'waiting times' for services as we do not refer the patient.

The BMWs are now able to refer to the new Loss and Trauma team who set up in 2024, they are a branch of the Perinatal Health Team (PNMHT).

In 2024 there were x0 women referred to the Loss and Trauma team following a miscarriage.

Please note ***

People who are referred/ self-refer to the Birth reflections service, are not always traumatised, they often just wish for an understanding/clarity of events. It's impossible to determine exact numbers for reasons for attending the service, as it's often multi-factorial.

We only collect data from miscarriages over 14 weeks gestation. All women suffering a miscarriage at 14 weeks have access to the Bereavement Midwifery team. Since May 2019 all women are offered 5 funded counselling sessions by a local charity. As we do not refer the patient, we do not have the statistics.

Attachment(s):

No Attachments

Date Response sent: 6th March 2025