

Title: **Digital Obstetric Sepsis Alerts**

---

Reference Number: RDF1339-23

Date of Response: 03/04/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (RDUH) has existed since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

*Dear Freedom of Information Officer,*

*I am conducting a project that examines digital sepsis alerts for obstetric patients in England. We are interested in mapping the landscape of early warning algorithms and electronic health record systems that are used to identify patients at risk of deterioration from obstetric sepsis across different English NHS Trusts. As part of this project, we would like information on digital obstetric sepsis alerts in your Trust.*

*Terms of Reference:*

- **Trust** – refers to **ALL** individual sites (hospitals) within a Trust. Where multiple sites exist, information should be provided for each site.
- **Maternity Unit** – refers to all hospital areas where maternity-specific services are provided. Examples include Day Assessment Units and Labour wards.
- **Obstetric Sepsis** – all pregnancy-related sepsis that occurs during or after pregnancy, abortion, miscarriage, or delivery, and up to 6 weeks postpartum.
- **EHR** – any electronic health or patient system (including EPRs) that is routinely used to capture bedside and other clinical data for patients such as vital signs, as well as laboratory and radiographic results.
- **DSA** – any sepsis alert that is linked to patients' electronic health record and serves as a component of an obstetric early warning system / protocol.

---

1. Does your Trust use an electronic health record system [EHR] (e.g., Cerner, System C, Dedalus)? **YES / NO**

Answer: Yes.

- If **YES**, do sites within your Trust use different EHRs? **YES / NO** or **NA** (single site Trusts).

Answer: No.

2. Please name the EHR systems used at each Trust site

Answer: EPIC.

**3. Does your Trust's site(s) also use EHRs for obstetric patients? YES / NO**

Answer: Yes.

- *If YES, please name ALL EHR systems used for obstetric patients at each site, and when they were introduced?*

Answer: EPIC - introduced 2020 (Eastern services) and 2022 (Northern Services). Viewpoint introduced 2012, GAP GROW introduced 2017.

**4. Does your Trust's site(s) use an algorithm (e.g., MEWS, NEWS2, qSOFA) for the early detection of obstetric sepsis? YES / NO**

Answer: Yes.

- *If YES, please provide details of the obstetric sepsis algorithm used in your Trust's site(s). Please attach details if possible.*

Answer: Eastern Services: MEWS, BSOTS, Embedded Sepsis risk assessment tool for identification of sepsis and care bundle but data and selection is a manual input. Northern Services: Please see link to Severely Ill Pregnant Women Guideline <https://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Severely-ill-pregnant-women-V6.0.pdf>

**5. Does your Trust's site(s) use a digital sepsis alert for obstetric sepsis? YES / NO**

Answer: Yes.

- *If YES, please specify ALL sites where the obstetric digital sepsis alert is active.*

Answer: All sites, both RDUH Eastern and Northern services.

**6. For sites with active obstetric digital sepsis alerts: please indicate the obstetric sepsis algorithm used in the digital sepsis alert.**

Answer: Alert is triggered when any MEWS score becomes abnormal. Unable to disclose specific build of the alert or sepsis tool - intellectual property protection rules. However, the sepsis tool is based on manual data input from clinicians. So the assessment, diagnosis and classification of sepsis is part of the overall assessment of women by the clinician. The digital sepsis risk assessment tool is just the method of documentation of that assessment. There is no decision-making functionality or AI within the system.

**7. How does the obstetric digital sepsis alert notify practitioners (e.g., a pager, a flashing warning on patients' EHR)?**

Answer: Screen pop-up-box alert.