

Assisted Vaginal Birth

Guideline information

Guideline number: 655

Classification:
Clinical

Supersedes:
Previous Version - 2

Local Safety Standard for Invasive Procedures (LOCSSIP) reference:
N/A

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) standards:
N/A

Version number:
Version 3

Date of Equality Impact Assessment:
09/10/2024

Approval information

Approved by: Maternity Guideline, Audit and Research Group

Date of approval:
26/09/2024

Date made active:
10/10/2024

Review date:
29/09/2027

Scope:

This guideline is to provide evidence-based recommendations on the use of forceps and vacuum extraction for both rotational and non-rotational assisted vaginal birth with the aim of standardising care in line with RCOG recommendations. Whilst this guideline gives a generalised approach it is important to recognise that each woman's care should be individualised for her unique situation.

The guidance below uses the term 'woman' (pronouns she or her) to describe individuals whose sex assigned at birth was female, whether they identify as female, male or non-binary. It is important to acknowledge it is not only people who identify as women for whom it is necessary to access women's health and reproductive services. Therefore, this should include people who do not identify themselves as women but who are pregnant or have recently given birth. Obstetric and Midwifery services and delivery of care must therefore be appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to the needs of those individuals whose gender identity does not align with the sex that they were assigned at birth.

To be read in conjunction with:

[640 - Management of 3rd and 4th Degree Tears \(Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries OASIS\) Guideline](#) – opens in new tab

[1056 - Bladder Care Management During Intrapartum and Postnatal Period Guideline](#) – opens in new tab

[620 - Thromboprophylaxis in the Antenatal and Postpartum Period Guideline](#) – opens in new tab

Patient information:

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/media/2p4fh2kd/pi-vaginal-birth-final-28042020.pdf> - opens in new tab

Owning group:

Maternity Guideline, Audit and Research Group

26/09/2024

Executive Director job title:

Sharon Daniel - Interim Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience

Reviews and updates:

1.0 – New Guideline

2.0 – Updated

3.0 – Updated

Keywords

Assisted vaginal delivery

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<https://www.rcog.org.uk/guidance/browse-all-guidance/green-top-guidelines/assisted-vaginal-birth-green-top-guideline-no-26/> - opens in new tab