Chapter qualitative sub-study

Participant information leaflet: Healthcare professionals

What is this study?

- Exploring the views and experiences of women affected by tears and cuts during childbirth and the healthcare professionals who care for them (the **Chapter qualitative sub-study**).
- *This study forms part of a larger programme of research called **Optimising the care of women following childbirth related perineal trauma (the Chapter study)**. You can find out more information about the Chapter Study via this website or using the QR code: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/applied-health/research/chapter-study.aspx*

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Why should I get involved in this study?

Why are tears and/or cuts in childbirth such a problem?

- Childbirth related perineal trauma (CRPT) refers to the injuries experienced by women who give birth vaginally, which may result from tears or cuts to muscles and skin around the bladder, vagina perineum (the skin between the vagina and back passage) and anal sphincter.
- CRPT affects over 80% (around 450,000) of women who give birth vaginally in the UK each year.

Why is this study important?

- CRPT can result in pain and distress for women, and where there are problems, they need to be treated quickly and effectively.
- If tears and cuts are not treated properly, women can be left with physical and mental health problems.
- At the moment, we don't have a tool to help healthcare professions to manage CRPT after childbirth if there are problems.
- It's important that we develop a tool to make sure that women affected by cuts and tears during childbirth are getting the best care.
- The information that we collect as part of this study, will be used to inform the development of a tool and guidance, and will hopefully improve care for women in the future.

Why have I been invited to take part?

- You have been invited because you are an HCP currently involved in the provision of NHS care to women who have experienced CRPT.

What will I have to do to take part?

- You will be invited to take part in an online (e.g., via Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp) or phone interview with a member of the Chapter qualitative team.
- Interviews typically last for about an hour, but this depends on how much you have to say.
- With your permission, the interview will be either video and/or audio recorded if done on remote platforms or audio recorded if done by phone to allow the researcher(s) to pay full attention to what you are saying and enable the research team to do further analysis later.
- If you agree to take part in an interview, the research team will ask you complete a consent form and a short background questionnaire, so we know a bit more about you (e.g., your age, ethnicity).
- Consent can be given in several ways, including written, electronic or verbally recorded.

What are the benefits of taking part?

- The research might not directly benefit you, but what you tell us may help us to improve care for women with CRPT and the information available to HCPs who care for these women.
- At the end of the interview, you will be offered a £25 voucher to thank you for your time.

What are the risks of taking part?

- There are no physical risks to taking part in this study. However, conversations in the interview may be upsetting as they may relate to your personal or professional experiences.
- If this happens, we will ask you if you want to stop and have a short break, or if you want to stop completely.

Do I have to take part?

- No. Taking part in this study is voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to complete a consent form. However, you will be free to withdraw at any time without giving us a reason.
- If you decide to withdraw within two weeks of your interview, then we will securely destroy your data wherever possible.
- If you withdraw more than two weeks after the interview, then we will continue to use your anonymised data as it will have been included in our ongoing analysis by that point.

- If you wish to withdraw, please contact the Chapter qualitative team using the information provided below.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

- All the information collected as part of this study will be handled strictly in accordance with your consent, the Data Protection Act 2018 as part of the UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- Very occasionally, interviews/discussions bring to light information about a participant that could affect their welfare or the welfare of others.
- If this happens during your interview/discussion group, then the researcher may need to disclose this information to the relevant authority/agency.
- Certain welfare concerns may override concerns about confidentiality. Where possible, the researcher will talk to you about this.

What will happen to any information that I give?

- The audio/video-recording of the interview will be transcribed by a specialist transcription company who will sign an agreement to keep your data confidential and stored securely. We will analyse the transcripts as part of our research.

What will happen to the results of the study?

- The results of this study will be used to inform the development of a tool to help doctors, midwives and nurses to manage cuts and tears after childbirth and to make sure that women are getting the best care.
- The results may be published in academic journals, presented at conferences, and used to inform policy and practice.
- Please note that you will not be identifiable in any study related report.
- Results will be made available on the Chapter website – please scan the QR code or use the web address available at the end of this leaflet.

Who has funded and reviewed the research?

- This study has been funded by the National Institute for Health Research (Grant reference: NIHR202869). It is organised managed and coordinated by the University of Birmingham where data will be securely stored.
- The study has been reviewed by the University of Birmingham Central Ethics Committee.

What if there is a problem?

- If you are not satisfied with the way you have been approached or treated during this study, please speak to the researcher(s) first. Our contact details can be found below.
- You can also contact the lead researcher for the Chapter study, Professor Katie Morris (r.k.morris@bham.ac.uk)
- If you wish to complain formally, you can contact the University of Birmingham Research Ethics Manager, Sue Cottam (s.l.cottam@bham.ac.uk)

Where can I get further support?

- Taking part in this study may be challenging as you reflect on your personal or professional experience around CRPT.
- Below is a list of specialist professionals/organisations that can help support including emotional and physical support.

Name of Organisation	Website
MASIC	https://masic.org.uk/
Birth trauma association	https://www.birthtraumaassociation.org.uk/
Make birth better	https://www.makebirthbetter.org/
NCT parents in mind	https://www.nct.org.uk/
Maternal mental health alliance	https://maternalmentalhealthalliance.org/

Research team contact details

Lead Chapter Qualitative Researchers: Dr Laura Jones and Dr Sarah Hillman

Email us via chapterqualstudy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Call Laura on 0121 414 3024

Follow and Tweet us @Chapter_Study

Visit the Chapter study website: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/applied-health/research/chapter-study.aspx

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Thank you for taking time to read this information leaflet and for considering taking part in the Chapter qualitative sub-study