

**PE1602/A**

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists response.

Re: CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1602 (ECGs and heart echo tests within antenatal care)

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2016 requesting the view of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists with regards to the above named petition, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to include ECGs and heart echo tests in pregnancy care for women in Scotland.

As you may know, the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit is currently analysing, in detail, UK maternal deaths due to cardiac disease. The report, with recommendations on actions to prevent further deaths including deaths from perinatal cardiomyopathy, is scheduled for publication in December 2016. The RCOG awaits this report and will then consider the need for guidance for the profession.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG), Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE), RCOG and other partners were involved in a project aimed at preventing maternal morbidity and mortality based on the latest findings of the MBRRACE-UK Confidential Enquiries, which includes cardiac disease. Preventing maternal mortality: It's ok to ask seeks to remind maternity professionals about the indirect causes of maternal death during pregnancy and in the postnatal period. It includes information about looking out for the physical and psychological symptoms which indicate that a mother may be in need of further medical attention.

More information about can be found here

<https://rcpsg.ac.uk/college/influencinghealthcare/policy/maternal-health> The project has also produced an animated video about the physical, neurological and mental health conditions that can have an effect on pregnancy. To view this short video on YouTube, click here <https://youtu.be/qb7IntscULc>

The RCOG is currently developing a Good Practice Guide on Cardiac Disease in Pregnancy which is due for publication later this year.

I hope this is of some help, but please contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Alan Cameron  
Vice President, Clinical Quality

With best wishes,

Gemma  
**Gemma Thurston**  
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