

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT A RESEARCH STUDY RUNNING IN YOUR MATERNITY UNIT**

Your maternity unit is taking part in a research study called **CHOICE** (Cervical Ripening at Home or In-Hospital - prospective cohort study and process evaluation).

### **What is the CHOICE study?**

The CHOICE study is using routinely collected patient data to compare cervical ripening (the first part of the induction of labour process) at home and in hospital. The whole process of cervical ripening used to be performed only in hospitals. However, about half of UK maternity units now offer 'home cervical ripening' – where women have the treatment that causes cervical ripening in hospital but can go home for some time whilst waiting for the treatment to work. This may reduce the length of time women spend in hospitals, reduce demands on busy maternity units and may be preferred by women. However, risks and benefits of home cervical ripening are not yet fully understood, and our study aims to see if home cervical ripening is as safe as hospital based cervical ripening, acceptable to women and their partners, and cost effective for the NHS.

### **What does the CHOICE study involve?**

We will be using data that is routinely recorded on hospital electronic records when women have induction of labour. This means that if you choose to take part in the study we will use data that is already being collected by your midwife and doctor, and we will not ask you for any additional information. All data will be de-identified before it is sent from the hospital to the study researchers. De-identified data means data from which all personally identifiable information has been removed. In other words, the researchers cannot determine an individual's identity, so you cannot be identified from the information that is sent them.

We will also follow-up babies that need specialist care after birth, and we use routinely recorded data held by the National Neonatal Research Database (NNRD). This will mean securely sending their NHS number and other identifiers to the NNRD so that we can access the other information we need.

We will be running a second, smaller study called **qCHOICE**. We will be inviting women who are booked to have an induction of labour to answer some questions about their experience. Women will be contacted through the BadgerNet Maternity Portal with more information and to ask if they would like to complete a questionnaire and an optional interview.

### **How will the data be stored and analysed by the research team?**

All of the information will be sent securely for analysis to the University of Edinburgh, where it will be stored securely and analysed by study researchers. Only members of the study research team will have access to the data, and your personal data will not be shared with the University, or other private companies. It will not be possible to identify you, or your child from the study data or the final results.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. If you do not wish your data to be included in the study, you can inform your midwife. If you would prefer not to discuss this with your midwife, you can contact the local study lead who can arrange this for you.

If you have questions or would like more information about the research project, please contact CHOICE.Study@ed.ac.uk or visit the website: <https://www.choicestudy.co.uk>