NHS Lothian Maternity Services & MSLC Survey on Consent

4 September – 29 October 2017

3009 surveys returned. 1279 comments

**63 Comments submitted online referring to consent issues**

1. I felt I was given more choice than I wanted. I was happy to be informed (& felt well informed) but would have preferred stronger guidance and recommendations. I am not a trained medical professional and I wanted the doctors, nurses and midwives to ultimately make strong recommendations rather than ask me what I wanted to do. I felt they knew better than me. Also, if there was a problem resulting from the decision, I would have to carry the guilt every day. It would be far better for my mental health and mothering if, had there been any problem that affected my child, I felt I had followed expert advice rather than made a decision that had gone wrong. I simply didn't feel qualified to make a decision. I felt informed about risks and benefits. But what I really wanted to be was informed and ADVISED. I believe the care has gone too far in to consulting parents to a point that is detrimental and a bit bonkers. However, in the end nothing went wrong. But please don't get carried away and pressurised by well-meaning "anti-intervention" pressure groups (NCT, Hypnobirth). All of my pregnant friends agreed they felt undue pressure and guilt from decision making being put too much in their hands and had a feeling of failure when intervention was needed. Doctors and midwives are trained and qualified! We want their expertise please

2. Every consent for invasive intervention during labour was made under duress. The NHS staff told me that if I didn't let them do over 13 internal examinations, be on the monitor throughout the duration of labour, and eventually give birth lying down (I wanted to squat) that I was ENDANGERING the LIFE of my BABY. I felt threatened throughout labour. I felt violated throughout labour. During recovery, no one looked at my charts once. No one informed me when I could go home. The only time my chart was consulted was when I decided to check myself out of hospital against doctors' recommendation, 4 days after my daughter's birth. I lost 1.8 litres of blood. Since no one looked at my charts, I was not offered a transfusion, until I checked myself out. I have suffered extreme PTSD, pervasive suicidal thoughts, and postnatal depression and could not bond with my baby for the first two years of her life. Four years on and I am still suffering from this experience.

3. I found "participating" in decisions about our care difficult. I did ask questions, but the circumstances of being in hospital (though I did NOT wish to be at home) and of feeling odd because of pregnancy and (prescription) drugs meant that I could not process information in the same way as I would on a normal day. Perhaps this is always an obstacle, but I do consider that my ability to function as a reasoning adult would have been improved by (1) greater continuity of care between the community midwife (with whom a relationship has been built) and the hospital experience, and (2) greater information about the rules and environment of hospital

**A. Good Involvement**

4. All decisions made were my choice, me and my husband were happy to let the doctors and midwives advise the best steps to take for my delivery. They made sure my husband knew what was happening at all times, which I am grateful for.

5. During my induction, the staff were happy to listen to my requests after they had given their suggested plan. When my requests differed to theirs, they provided a compromise that satisfied us both.

6. I honestly can't speak highly enough about the care team I had while giving birth to my daughter in December 2016. They were absolutely excellent, the care I received was really brilliant. All decisions were made in conjunction with myself and my husband, we were always given choices and explained exactly what was going on. I felt empowered all the way through and most of all I felt my baby and I were in the safest of hands.

7. My baby was premature and got distressed so I needed an emergency section, although I was on a lot of medication, I felt I was kept informed of all the facts and given other options, I appreciated the no nonsense approach I received

8. Both C-section's clearly discussed, emergency was with a time pressure due to baby's dropping heart rate but still felt involved and felt confident with discussions being made. Pro's and con's of elective C-section vs. VBAC discussed.

9. I had gestational diabetes in my most recent pregnancy and felt the care I received was great, possible treatment and procedures were explained in depth to me and I was happy to agree to induction of labour at 39 weeks to ensure a safe outcome for my baby.

10. As a Jehovah's Witness I had extra appointments with various consultants before my birth. I cannot commend highly enough the level of care I was given, and how well respected I felt my wishes were taken. My labour didn't go to plan at the end, but I felt well looked after

11. I feel very fortunate to have had 3 very straightforward pregnancies, labours and deliveries, and my care during pregnancy and in labour/delivery was absolutely fantastic. I felt informed and confident that I would be listened to and the midwives/doctors I encountered could not have been more supportive of my birth plan, desire for a water birth etc... I have no experience really of any situations where procedures might have been done without me feeling fully informed/feeling listened to. Had my pregnancies/labours/deliveries been more complicated then this might have altered my perception of things.

12. Two babies in last 5 years. Care from midwives involved couldn't have been better. I felt safe at all times in labour and birth. Trusted their professional opinion at all times. I am a health care professional myself but childbirth is not my expertise. I feel all woman should to be following medical and midwifery direction in labour and childbirth. I don't think the woman's choice or opinion is always best or safest.

**B. Circumstances meant little involvement but happy with outcome**

13. I've responded based on two pregnancies during the last five years. Both times the final choice of delivery was taken out of my hands with no time to think about choices or implications. Both times I was extremely happy with the care provided to me.

14. There were a couple of decisions made that I felt were out with my control. I had an episiotomy as baby's heartbeat was dropping. but I was happy to be guided by midwives who have delivered far more babies than me!

15. My labour was only 4 hours so there was very little time to discuss anything, as questions or make choices. I had a 3rd degree tear and went to theatre straight afterwards. I relied on the professionals knowing what to do and what was best for me. I was too exhausted and overwhelmed to question anything and can't even remember if I gave consent. I think in a situation like that I would prefer the medical professionals to do what they think is best and take quick action rather than having to sign forms.

16. My baby was back to back and I was in do much pain I was happy to let the consultant turn her - plus it was safer for her because she started to get distressed. That process would have been hindered if someone had to complete a form and then wait on me signing it. Sometimes you just need to trust the professionals.

17. During labour, my son started to show signs of distress. It was more important for him to be born quickly than to explain to me every detail of what was happening (which would have needed to happen in between contractions). I was totally fine with that and trusted the doctor and midwives that were there.

18. My baby's heartbeat dropped as I was in the pool so it was explained why it was best for me to deliver on the bed so we could both be monitored. I fully trusted my midwife as we had formed a bond and I knew any decision she was making was in the best interest of me and my baby. She was the professional so you have to trust that what she suggests is the best thing. I felt I could question it if I wanted but the reasons explanation regarding my treatment made sense and were logical (I too am a health professional) so I trusted her. My husband was included throughout too which I think is important. I may have been the one delivering the baby but as the child's father and my partner it was important for me to have him involved.

19. There wasn't much time for consultation as my baby was in distress, and I was in too much pain to engage properly in the process

20. I didn't feel that I had any control in my labour at all. That said, the staff were all great and I knew they had both mine and my baby's best interests at heart.

21. To be honest I can't remember much about birth as have blocked it out, but I felt well cared for and if I was unaware of what was going on or not able to respond/make decisions my birthing partners were kept well informed and made decisions for me.

22.I had an emergency category 1 under General anesthetic section, without it my baby and /or I may have died. I am so thankful for those working that day, my placenta abrupted and there was no time to sign forms or be explained what was happening, it all happened so fast. Though I do remember bits before being knocked out and I'd have appreciated them explaining what they were doing to me as I was still half with it. A debrief a few days after would help and I'd like a copy of my notes so I can understand what happened.

23. Hear rate dropped and baby was back to back - got wheeled away into theatre and told I was to get spinal and they would turn baby - never really had a chance to oppose or question more but trusted that the professionals knew best and happy to go along with it. Felt very procedural to be asked to sign a consent form when half drugged and 'out of it' though - very much a way for hospital to protect themselves when in fact I had no choice but to sign as process had already started. All went well in the end so I'm not upset about it but can imagine someone else could have been.

**C. No Involvement**

24. Once at hospital, I did not feel well advised or consulted by midwifes. I felt that I was told what was happening rather than asked for my permission.

25. I didn't want to take paracetamol but felt I had no choice, I didn't want forceps but was told I had no choice, i felt like everything was out of my control - had I been more relaxed and felt supported and safe I might not have needed an emergency section.

**D. Not listened to**

26. I made a formal complaint at the time of the birth as I was given a very unpleasant and painful vaginal examination without proper consent during my labour.

27. I had all the signs and symptoms of pre-eclampsia yet, no one would listen to me, explain what was happening or make a decision on my care. I was admitted 7days before my son was born by emergency section and this only happened due to my baby going into distress. Whole situation could have been avoided if i had been listened to.

28. I went into hospital during the night after bleeding at one week overdue. I waited for a long time before being told 'we are going to induce you' with no explanation of why or what might be causing the bleed. The medical staff (doctor?) who told me couldn't answer my questions. Without a clear explanation I can't help feeling my emergency c-section may have been avoidable as I would not otherwise have wanted to be induced at 4am after being up all night waiting. It was confusing because while I was told I was going to be induced, implying a problem, there didn't seem to be any real urgency and we were waiting for several hours. I was also upset that as soon as some interventions became necessary my birth plan was disregarded. I don't remember any medical staff looking at it. The most important thing to me was to hold my baby as soon as she was born and I wasn't able to do so, although there was nothing wrong with her. I also wanted my partner and I to find out the sex for ourselves, but the doctor told us immediately. Both of these preferences were mentioned on our (short, clear) birth plan.

29. I felt the midwife during my labour was very dismissive of what I said and what I wished. My contractions never got to the magic 3 in 10 minutes lasting a minute each, but I was definitely in labour. She wouldn't believe me so wouldn't give me any pain relief. I feel certain that had I been listened to and allowed into the birthing pool when I asked, I would not have become so distressed. Instead I felt I was treated like a school child and made to feel that I didn't know what I was talking about when I said I was in pain.

30. never asked me about cutting cord wanted delayed clamping

31. i felt like just another number. I had to strongly fight with my midwife to get her to respond to me and answer my questions during labour, not to mention a furious debate with her about letting my baby's head come down as far as possible without pushing. I was told that it was "ERI policy" to "allow" a mother only an hour- regardless of situation- crazy when at no time in the lead up to pushing was my baby showing any signs of distress on the monitor. I repeatedly asked to be examined as I felt a lot of pressure down there to be told that I wouldn't be far enough along, as I was only admitted a couple of hours before (having a rapid onset of labour and being ambulanced to hospital). When I was eventually examined, I was 10cm dilated. I felt like to my midwife, I was someone who knew too much and she knew better about my body than I did. she also kept insisting that I needed more drugs through my epidural line as I wasn't comfortable enough- the real reason being that I was actually very dilated and had been given the epidural too late without proper examination.

**E. Intervention against wishes**

32. My main concern was visit to have pessary placed. First midwife came and gave extremely thorough info about risks benefits and explanation of what would happen (but she did not mention anything about a sweep) 2nd midwife arrived and after placing pessary said "while I'm up here I'll just do a sweep" which she did. It was very painful and I felt it to be completely inappropriate to do that without consent. I was shocked by the fact she did not seem to understand basic concepts of consent. I am a health care professional and am involved in consent process daily.

**F. Birth Centre / Labour Ward**

33. I was very happy with my care in the birth centre and felt the staff really cared about my birth preferences even ticking off items on my birth plan. Such a small thing but it really made me feel they felt my preferences were valid. I had imagined they would scoff at my birth plan as I had been made to feel (by others outside the NHS mainly) that a birth plan was ridiculously naive /waste of time...and that medical staff would roll their eyes and ignore it. I think women need to be told explicitly this is not the case and that their views matter. (Of course most understand they need to be prepared for things to change if needed).. The midwife service during pregnancy was mostly good but I felt I had to do a lot of my own research and wasn't given a lot of information on certain decisions even when I asked for it. For me, I felt triage at ERI was the weakest part of the system. Staff seem to think it's their job to keep people out of hospital for as long as possible and assume everyone has textbook contractions (my labour went v quickly but I was dissuaded from coming to hospital). To sum up, I feel I was lucky to have a straight forward pregnancy and delivery and to be in the birth centre where there seems to be a stronger ethos when it comes to empowering women by involving them in decisions about their care BUT this should be in place across all maternity services. I'm aware of many women in Edinburgh who have not been so lucky.

34. Mostly excellent although having my second baby on the Labour ward after the first was born in the birth centre I found there was much less explanation about what was happening and less good communication. I understand this was in part due to things moving quickly but I certainly felt less supported and less listened to than in the birth centre.

35. It was a bit difficult to answer these questions fairly as it was hard to get across the disparity of care between the different parts of the hospital. The birth of my daughter was spread between the Birth Centre and the Royal Infirmary (I had to move when there was meconium in my waters). The experience in each setting was almost polar opposites. In the Birth Centre it was a very calm environment with a lot of support and discussion between myself, the midwife and my partner. On the ward there was no discussion of anything even though I was there for three hours before my daughter was actually born. I do not think that my birth plan was even looked at on the ward. No medical advice given or explanation of what was happening. Definitely no options of treatment provided. Feel that I would not have had a 3rd degree tear and the complications that arose from it if I had stayed in the Birth Centre.

**G. Midwives/Doctors**

36. I only have positive things to say about the wonderful midwives with both my children. I could not say the same for the Doctors, not impressed when you asked for more information, what if we do nothing, can I have more time. Staff in theatre after my baby was taken away into intensive care were horrific!

37. I feel that my midwife during the birth of my baby completely appreciated and understood the type of birth I had hoped for. When it was decided I needed an emergency C-section, the doctor was very forceful and in my face to get the consent form signed whilst I was mid contraction. I appreciate the urgency of the situation but a little more appreciation of me by the doctor would have been better. My midwife was fantastic and asked the doctor to allow me to have time to finish my contraction and focus on my breathing before I signed anything.

38. The care from all midwives I came into contact with during my pregnancy was excellent. The care from midwives in the hospital during and after the birth was OK. The care from the student midwives was hit and miss. The care from the doctors during the birth was very polar. I wanted a low intervention (as far as reasonably possible) birth so I did not want my waters to be broken. I and my partner expressed this to the doctor assessing me when I was taken from the midwife led unit to the labour ward due to bleeding. Despite explicitly asking the doctor to examine me and then decide whether I wanted my waters to be broken, she went straight ahead and broke them without saying anything. In comparison, after two rounds of the induction drip and not progressing, I was given the choice of a further induction drip or to have a section. I really appreciated being given that choice and the explanation of the options available. I was furious about the treatment from the doctor who broke my waters and considered making a formal complaint. But when you have a new baby to look after, who has the energy for that.

**H. Caesarean Section**

39. Prior to the birth of the child, the consultant would not and did not agree with my clear choice to have a planned Caesarian section despite my clear views that a natural birth would put my baby and I at certain risks given this was my second baby and my first baby was delivered by way of an emergency Caesarian after an extensive labour over 25 hours in which only 4cm dilation was achieved. Such was the consultant's view that I had to repeatedly ask for my views to be taken into account and the planned Caesarian was eventually rearranged with less than 48 hours' notice. This is clearly against existing NICE guidelines and took no account of my very clear views. The midwives in particular were excellent and ensured my views were respected.

40. During pregnancy the midwife didn't listen to our worries about having a vaginal birth with the weight and size of the baby seen on scans. With a slim body like mine, the midwife never listened to me or my husband when we asked about having caesarian. This has led me to have many complications during labour and what the NHS personal has called a traumatic labour. (36hrs in labour, Forceps delivery, rotation of the baby, 3rd degree tear). The day I had my baby I was so out of what was happening, and my husband so scared of losing the both of us that we couldn't really make decisions but just let the doctors do what they thought was best.

41. After 4 IVF attempts, I was very anxious during my pregnancy about something going wrong during the birth and so I asked for a planned section. The consultant told me it was unusual for someone to have a placed CS with their first baby but listened to my reasons for it and explained the risks etc which then allowed me to make an informed decision. On the day of the section, the staff at St Johns were absolutely wonderful, they took the time to explain everything to me and I really did feel in safe hands.

42. I had twins. There was an assumption that I would want a vaginal delivery, what I wanted was information about risks of vaginal delivery versus section. It took 4 consultant appointments and several requests for a discussion on birth options before I was given the information I needed to make an informed decision.

43. I was scheduled to have a planned section, but my waters went before this. Once in hospital I was questioned by two doctors about whether I wanted to go ahead with a section. They mentioned that I'd had a consultant appointment during pregnancy and asked /gave statistics about success of vbac. Although I understood that this had to be done I was starting to feel quite pressured not to go ahead with a section and I'm not sure that when you're feeling vulnerable and emotional that it's the best time to have to be going over and feeling like you need to justify your choices. I'd had an emergency section with my first pregnancy under a general anaesthetic and just wanted to be awake second time around. Once contractions had started and I was uncomfortable, plus having flashbacks to my first labour, I really felt quite pressured and that I was having to justify myself to them, which wasn't very nice. I know that they were just doing their job, but it left me heading into surgery feeling very upset, emotional and scared, which wasn't how'd I'd anticipated a planned section would have been.

44. For my second pregnancy I was trying to give birth naturally after having a c section the first time, but it didn't go to plan, even though the staff all tried as hard as possible to keep my birth plan going as my biggest fear was going through another section, but it wasn't meant to be. I can't fault the staff whatsoever they let me make the decision to keep going or go for the section but i took their recommendations even though it was an emergency it wasn't rushed we still had time if I wanted to keep trying, but I didn't want to risk it from what they were telling me. The staff were absolutely fantastic, the guy who gave me the epidural was lovely, kept me laughing even though there were things going wrong and the surgically team were amazing kept us updated to what was happening as i had a very difficult surgery. I'm not going to go into details of how as there were lots of elements to it but they saved my life and gave me back to my family and for that i am extremely grateful!!! And that care is priceless!!!

**I. Reduced Fetal Movements**

45. I have been very satisfied with the care I have received during both of my pregnancies and labours in the last 3 years. During my second pregnancy I attended Rie triage with reduced FM. Triage were brilliant- but my notes from triage were incorrect and stated I had had several episodes of reduced FM rather than just one. Triage discharged me after spr review but my community midwife read the incorrect notes and would not listen to me when I told her repeatedly that I had only had one real episode of reduced movements. She felt induction was appropriate (despite spr having felt it was not necessary) and arranged for this with my consultant (relaying the version of events in my notes, not listening to me). As I am a doctor I understood more about the AFFIRM study than most and in the end asked my midwife if I could discuss this induction with the consultant as I did not feel I fulfilled the criteria. The midwife told me I could but that refusing induction was at my own risk and that that may lead to still birth. I did manage to get to speak to the consultant by phone who actually listened to me and agreed I did not fulfill induction criteria. I was so pleased and relieved that somebody had finally listened to me. I did feel though that if I hadn't been a doctor and felt able to push for a discussion with somebody who was comfortable with obstetric decision making that I would have ended up being induced. I went on to have a perfect svd in 3 hours at St. John's and was beyond thrilled with the experience. I was frustrated that the midwife repeatedly refused to listen to me and kept just telling me 'well that's what your notes say' when I knew my notes were wrong. However I knew that her insistence was driven by fear of doing the wrong thing and everybody in the system being over pressured. I don't know what the answer is to addressing this fear culture in midwifery- (good luck! And thanks for doing this survey) but I was really grateful when somebody took the time to listen to me.

**J. Self informed / more listened to**

46. Everyone I came into contact with at the royal was very good kind competent and did their best. I was fortunate that I did a lot of my own reading beforehand to be informed and stay in control of the decision making process. This enabled me make educated decisions about how to navigate an induced labour. This included knowledge to refuse certain procedures (e.g. Constant montitoring during labour, -particularly using a ctg with a loose connection that stopped reading the instant I moved-) which I feel would have further 'medicalised' my delivery and made it impossible for me to have an unassisted vaginal birth following induction. Had I not been informed prior to stating the induction process I would have believed that once I was in 'medical care' I would have been obliged to 100% follow protocol. I realise that protocol is written on basis of the evidence base, but this is what is statistically best for everyone, and not necessarily right for an individual. It might be confusing to offer endless choice to mothers, and that the outcome is of upmost importance, and in a litigious society important for the medical professions to be covered, but i do feel there needs to be a balance between this and medicalisation of birth so much that birthing mothers become 'patients' who follow advice which is purely protocol and not necessarily right for that individual. Overall I'm very happy with the care I got.

47. Once it was clear that I was very informed of options and choice, my midwives were very supportive. I asked for no VE during labour in advance and on birth plan but was asked during labour to reconsider 3 or 4 times. I eventually said yes to one to get them to stop asking. This was a little unhelpful. Delayed cord clamping till day 3 and midwives happy to go along with that.

48. It was important to me to have enough information as possible and make informed decisions and I'm not always sure that doctors want to discuss issues with patients and for patients to have their own opinions. The consultant in the day unit simply told me what was to happen to me without any consideration for how I felt about it when she wanted me to be induced. This really angered me and made me feel like I was secondary to what was going on. I was also subject to a painful examination during induction which I was not aware would be so invasive. This was very upsetting and made it difficult to remain calm. In contrast later midwives advised me when things would be painful and why, and during the actual birth the consultant considered my birth plan and explained why she thought I should deviate from it. I felt informed and happy to go with what she recommended as I was treated like an intelligent person, not just something giving birth. Overall the care I received was excellent.

**K. Vitamin K**

49. Had information about vitamin K and made informed choice to have drops if circumstances required. Temporary MW told me I should change my mind and had paediatrician from hospital phone me to change my mind. I am not anti-vax, simply wanted to make an informed choice but felt that wasn't an option. The new information did not convince me as the hospital doctor asked if I was willing to risk my baby dying by not giving him a vit K shot immediately after birth.

**L. Age**

50. I felt that on my initial visit to the consultant I was given vague information about some pretty scary stuff and that I only got more details because I was willing to ask questions. I had a lot of options removed from giving birth and I was told this was due to my age. Even though I had a very straight forward healthy pregnancy I still was classed as high risk solely because of my age (44) so couldn't have my baby at the birthing centre as I wanted**.**

**M. Homebirth for control**

51. I opted for a home birth to give me the control I found lacking during my first experience at the birthing centre. My home birth was amazing and I couldn't have received better care (attended by 3 midwives). However my first experience left me with trauma as I was not listened to during or after the birth. Firstly I was told they were going to rupture my amniotic sac, I was not given time to respond or alternatives before this happened. Then I was left with my legs in the air waiting for the registrar to come and check the stitches. I was completely ignored when I requested to lower my legs due to cramp. I finally lost it when they told me they were going to have to take out the stitches and redo them. At this point I demanded to feed and hold my baby as they had not let me hold him while waiting. It took me a very long Time to get over this. All caused by professionals ignoring my wishes and not consulting me. Women need to be empowered in birth. This comes with the language and terminology we use regarding it. There should also be a choice offered and women's ability to birth their children respected.

**N. Previous stillbirth**

52. Some of the midwives during induction hadn't read my notes properly- this made me feel awkward and uncomfortable as they seemed oblivious to my previous stillbirth and were obviously annoyed when I wanted to ask questions and double check my own understanding. One in particular was rude and arrogant, talking down to me as if I was stupid.

**O. Second Opinion**

53. At the end of my pregnancy my blood sugars were checked and were slightly high. I was diagnosed with gestational diabetes. I disputed this diagnosis because of 1 result. The midwife, following instruction from a consultant, was trying to force me into being induced. I absolutely did not want that and refused. I was told my baby's birth weight would increase and that could bring loads of complications. I again disagreed and eventually managed to get a compromise of going to the infirmary and getting totally checked out before agreeing to anything. The staff in the Royal were lovely and told me that it was rubbish that I have someone diagnosed me like that. I felt awfully bullied.

**P. Pregnancy Tests**

54. It was never clearly explained to me what the blood tests and Down syndrome checks at my '12 week' scan were - I don't feel it was fully explained to me and that I didn't need these tests should I choose not to. As a result I came back as high risk and it wouldn't have changed anything so these tests were carried out needlessly but also caused worry and concern throughout the pregnancy.

55. One thing that continues to bother me, is that I specifically did not consent to nuchal screening. This is a written consent form and I ticked 'no' for the nuchal screen and declined bloods. However, on the day of the twelve weeks scan, we were informed that the nuchal measurement was 4.0 and were seen by a consultant. As we had already indicated by selecting 'no' in the consent form that the outcome would not alter the path of the pregnancy for us, there was nothing more that could be done other than wait until a further scan at 18 weeks. We felt our wishes had been ignored and that we then had a further nine weeks (with a further scan at 21 weeks) of uncertainty based on a measurement the size of a fingernail. I appreciate there are many people who want this information, but surely that's what the consent form is for? For those of us who would choose not to act on this information, why tell us when we have already indicated otherwise? I cannot fault the care of all the wonderful staff, they are helpful, kind and caring. I was just so very surprised to have been told the nuchal measurement and I think it would be helpful if you had information available as to when and why you would do nuchal screening without consent. Thanks!

**Q. Views on Signing forms**

56. I think signing off in every minor procedure is just pointless. Only for major things like surgery would consent form be necessary. Midwives have enough to do.

57. It was inappropriate to make me sign a document that I clearly couldn't read to have a forceps procedure. I wasn't in the right state of mind when the doctor came in and told me to sign the form, oh and by the way we may have to remove your womb if it all goes wrong. Not what I needed to hear at the time, could my partner not have signed it?

58. The ST2 that consented me for the section did the most comprehensive form I've ever seen.

59. I found it a bit ridiculous that after 14 hours of hideous labour I was expected to sign a consent form for the emergency c section... there really wasn't a choice by that point, the baby needed out! I had no idea what I was signing I was completely delirious, feel like that paperwork should be given to you to read at a midwife appointment so at least you know what it is!!!

60. I had a wonderful experience both during pregnancy and labour and can't thank the midwives enough for the care we received I was fortunate enough to have a low risk pregnancy and my labour went smoothly but as it was very long, the midwives offered me other options regularly and always took my thoughts on board. I was happy to take their advice throughout and while I agreed verbally to what they were offering, I don't think it is possible to have every decision consented to in writing as I could think of nothing worse than having to stop concentrating on labour to sign something that I could verbally consent to.

**R. Forceps**

61. I do not feel I was fully informed of the risks of vaginal prolapse associated with forceps delivery. If I had been made aware of these risks I would have chosen a CS.

62. Although the Midwife's and medical staff were all fantastic on the day, I felt as though I was talked into a forceps delivery which was one of the only things that I specified that I did not want (I deliberately didn't make a birth plan as was aware that things can change during child birth). I was left feeling traumatised after this and with a few long standing problems, which now has left me dreading the birth of my second child. I am even considering an elective c section so I do not have to go through that again.

63. I was rushed to theatre during labour twice for emergency section and the doctor wanted to first of all try cutting me and use forceps and if that didn’t work then a section, I was very against forceps and begged her not to and asked her just to do the section but she did not listen to me. I asked and shouted numerous times but was not listened to. After the trauma of being rushed into theatre for the second time, not really knowing what was going on this was extremely upsetting that I was not listened to. My midwife was extremely lovely and tried herself to tell the doctor but once again was not listened to.