PATIENT INFORMATION

Dear Patient,

Between February 2011 and January 2012, you completed a questionnaire at your outpatient appointment for heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB). A copy of it can be found here.

You agreed for us to send you a follow up questionnaire around a year after your first outpatient appointment. The information you provided on the first questionnaire has already been very helpful. However, we do need the second questionnaire to complete the picture. We would be really grateful if you could fill in and return this questionnaire as soon as possible. If you do not return the questionnaire within three weeks of receiving it, you will be sent a reminder letter and another copy of the follow-up questionnaire in the post.

With many thanks for your help with this important audit

The National HMB Audit Team

Frequently asked questions

❖ **Who is carrying out the audit?**

The audit is being run by a team of clinicians and audit experts from:
- Office for Research and Clinical Audit at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Ipsos MORI, a leading opinion and market research organisation

❖ **What are the aims of the audit?**

The primary objective of this audit is to assess patient outcomes for women with HMB. Specifically, we aim to investigate:
- patient-reported symptom severity and health-related quality of life of women
- treatment patterns among women with HMB
- patient-reported outcomes one year after a woman’s first outpatient visit
- regional and provider-level variations in referral rates, treatment patterns and outcomes that may guide the quality of care improvement initiatives

❖ **What does the audit include?**

The audit includes two components.

Organisational audit: A national survey of all Acute NHS Trusts to ascertain current referral patterns, protocols and practice in the management of HMB. Information on this component can be found in the first annual report:
Audit of patient-reported outcomes: This is a study of symptoms and health-related quality of life among women who attend outpatient gynaecology clinics with complaints of HMB. The questionnaire you filled in last year at your outpatient appointment is the first part of this component, and the follow up questionnaire you received in the post is the second part of this component.

❖ Which patients are included in or excluded from the audit?

Every woman with complaints of HMB who attends her first appointment at a gynaecological outpatient clinic within the study time period will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Women who have already been under care for HMB at a gynaecological outpatient clinic will be excluded.

❖ What will this audit add?

HMB is the fourth most common cause of referral to gynaecological clinics and has a significant impact on quality of life. This audit will increase our understanding of women’s experience of HMB, women’s perceptions of treatment options, and ultimately, the effectiveness of various treatment options to improve quality of life. This audit will also summarise regional variation in referral and treatment patterns.

❖ Will the information I share be confidential?

Yes, all the information you provide will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire will not form part of your care process and will be analysed independently. Your personal information (name, date of birth, NHS number) will not be made available to our methodologists.

If you would like further information about the audit, please visit our website at www.rcog.org.uk/orca/audit.

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