

UK NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

Antenatal Screening for Syphilis

21 November 2013

Purpose

This paper provides background on the agenda item addressing antenatal screening for syphilis.

Current policy

The current policy is that antenatal screening for syphilis should be offered as part of the Infectious Diseases in Pregnancy Screening Programme.

Current document

The current document was developed by Dr Sarah Hawkes and Dr Gabriella Gomez.

The main purpose of the review was to consider whether there were any papers which suggested that screening should be withdrawn. The document's main conclusion is that the literature does not support a change of policy.

Consultation

A consultation was held between 14th May and 14th August 2013. The review was circulated to the following stakeholders: British Association for Sexual Health and HIV, British Infection Association, British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Comments were received from the British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society and a local screening coordinator.

No issues were raised with the review's content or conclusions. However the local screening coordinator was concerned by the lack of information regarding screen positive cases which was shared between GUM and maternity services.

Action

The UK NSC is asked to reaffirm the current policy on antenatal screening for syphilis.



UK National Screening Committee

Syphilis screening in pregnancy - an evidence review

Consultation comments

There were two comments made regarding the syphilis screening in pregnancy evidence review.

British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society (BMFMS) asked Tim Overton to comment on the document and he wrote this:

I have looked at the Syphilis Draft document on behalf of the BMFMS with one of our Screening Midwives and Consultant Microbiologists from my Trust. We have nothing to add to the document at this stage and were happy with its contents.

Tim Overton

Mr Timothy G Overton BSc MD MRCGP FRCOG

Consultant in Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics,

The other comment was from Fiona McCormack, Local Screening Co-ordinator

Message:

I have read the consultation document and want to strongly agree with the comments via the SASS study regarding poor communication between maternity and sexual health services locally I find it difficult to obtain feedback following referral from the screening programme that contains the information that is recommended in the programme standards - there are never any recommendations for the management of the neonate.

I feel that sexual health services have a poor awareness of their role within this programme and it is frustrating that there are no information resources to give to women who are screen positive