

## Case Study

**Date:** 2013- 2014

**Region:** South East England Trust

**Overview:** Obstetrics and Gynaecological services review

**The details:** A South East England NHS Trust commissioned Donna Ockenden Ltd to carry out an independent external review of systems and processes following a number of serious incidents related to retained packs further to gynaecological surgery or vaginal delivery.

Four incidents occurred in May, July and August 2013. They were defined as 'retained foreign objects' post procedure. The women did not suffer harm but two received prophylactic antibiotics further to the event.

Two summits took place at the Trust with the purpose being to ensure all practices are safe and of high quality, that accurate documentation was maintained and that appropriate actions are taken to prevent incidents occurring again.

The external review was requested to cover: a review of all documents and challenge whether they were fit for purpose, consistent with best practice and clear and understandable to staff? Donna Ockenden Ltd was asked to review gynaecology ward, labour ward and gynaecology/ maternity theatre processes including patient handovers from theatre, the discharge process and overall compliance with all processes.

Donna Ockenden Ltd completed an in-depth review of all maternity and gynaecology processes, followed a patient journey to theatre, reviewed the Trust Consent process and ran a number of 'Think Tank' meetings with a range of staff including ward and theatre nurses, junior doctors, midwives and consultants. Donna Ockenden Ltd also completed an in-depth review of clinical notes and reviewed patient information across maternity and Gynaecology.

**Outcome:** Donna Ockenden Ltd presented the Trust with a detailed action plan and a number of recommendations. The recommendations were all accepted in full. There have been no further incidents at the Trust.