

HIPS/24/11 - Cost Effectiveness Of Immediate Versus Delayed Insertion Of Intrauterine Contraception After Childbirth In The UK

This study aims to find out if it is good value for money to provide intrauterine contraceptive device insertion (IUD or 'coil' insertion) immediately after childbirth in a maternity hospital (by a midwife or obstetric doctor). We will compare this with the current alternative, which is attending a GP practice or sexual health clinic a few weeks after the baby is born to have the IUD fitted. We know that many women find it difficult to make and attend these appointments while looking after their new baby. Immediate IUD insertion is safe but is not yet widely available in the UK. Research shows that this results in more women who want this method getting it provided and still using it months later, compared to when they have to make another appointment weeks after giving birth when they are caring for a baby. Research also shows that women really value having the option to have the IUD put in after birth when still in the maternity unit. By showing that providing this service in the NHS is good value for money, it could help to make it more widely available. This would increase contraceptive choice and simplify access to these methods after birth.