



South West  
London  
Integrated  
Care System

# WOMEN'S HEALTH HUBS

G Carr, H Clackson, M Coakley, M Fisk, N Lindner, A Oloko,  
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## AIM

To identify issues in current Women's Health delivery, working with users, communities and providers / staff to co-produce a new and sustainable model of delivery in a Women's Health Hub. The new model of care aims to meet the needs of women now and will be adaptable for future needs.

## BACKGROUND

Currently there lies challenges in access to women's health in Southwest London. With increasing referrals to secondary care, reduced capacity, long waiting times and a fragmented service for many. A new module recognising the Hewitt review and 'need for a movement away from centralised care' aims to better serve women in the community with a focus on a preventative approach to address the causes of many gynaecological health issues. Especially aimed for those most vulnerable or from deprived areas who may not readily access help for their women health needs.

## METHODS

We organised a women's health summit involving key stakeholders in SWL to voice their opinions on key strategies to improve care. We developed a focus group, including the local gynaecology leads from primary and secondary care, two GP SPIN fellows as well as project managers, to drive the QI project.

We started by analysing the data from existing Women's Health Hub models nationally to gain a better insights of their key processes and outcomes. We mapped existing pathways against our proposed pathways to visualize an improved patient journey and reduction in pressure to secondary care services.

We worked with the local health insights team and public health to collect data to identify key areas in health inequalities in the local area, alongside characteristics of patients on waiting lists.

Lastly, we engaged with the voluntary sector in the most deprived boroughs and funded engagement activities to get an accurate reflection of women's needs. This was both in relation to health and wellbeing, as well as women's health services in the area.

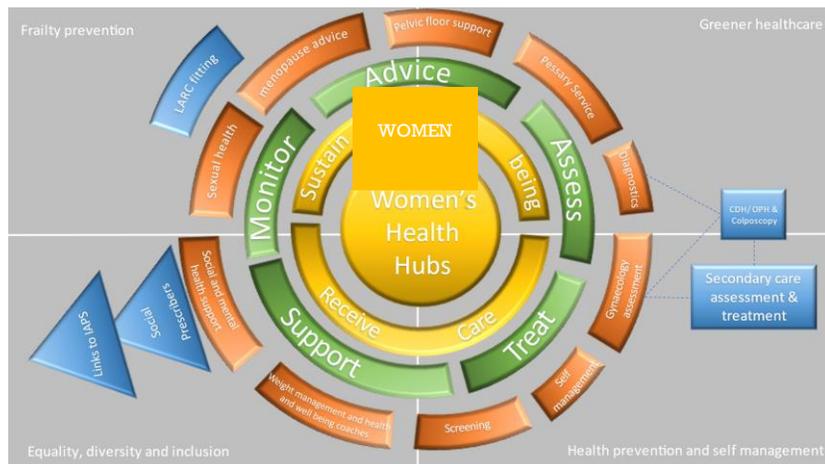


Diagram mapping out women's needs, including healthcare and wellbeing priorities

Quote from engagement / voluntary sector partner

"I am pleased to be part of a project which is a great way to open the conversation about South Asian women's experiences of the NHS. The outcome of the project will be a pathway for better healthcare and improving access to services for ethnic minorities"

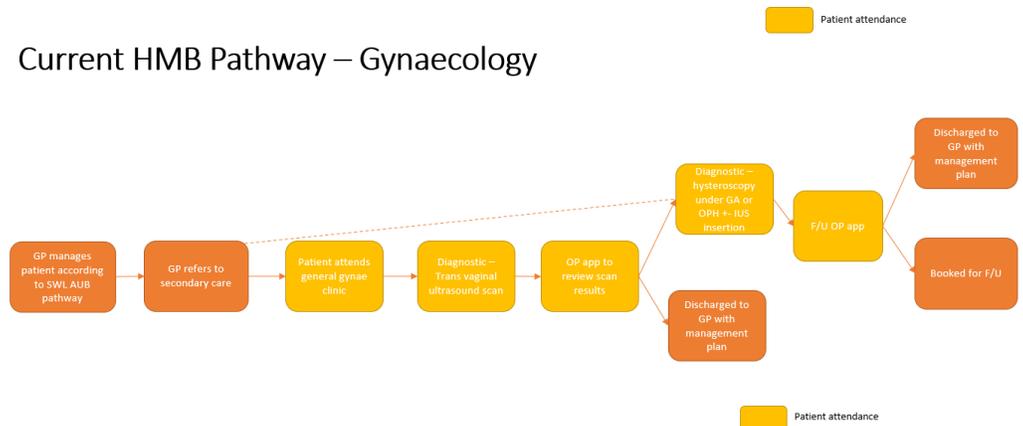
SM, Wandsworth Asian Women's Association

## RESULTS

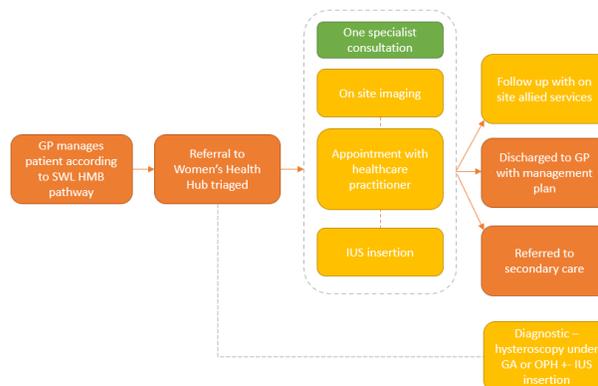
We produced service maps for key Women's Health pathways to illustrate a streamlined, more efficient patient pathway that substantially reduces attendances, with a holistic focus to improve the patient journey, as illustrated below the 'heavy menstrual bleeding pathway (HMB).

The service will focus on preventative measures to enable women to be managed much earlier in their journey.

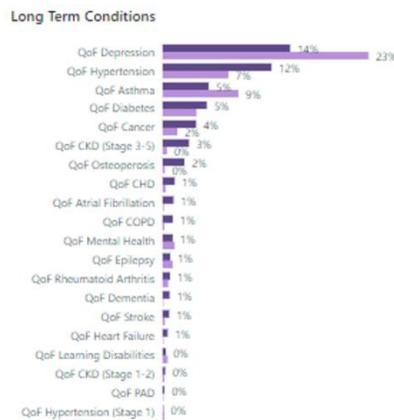
### Current HMB Pathway – Gynaecology



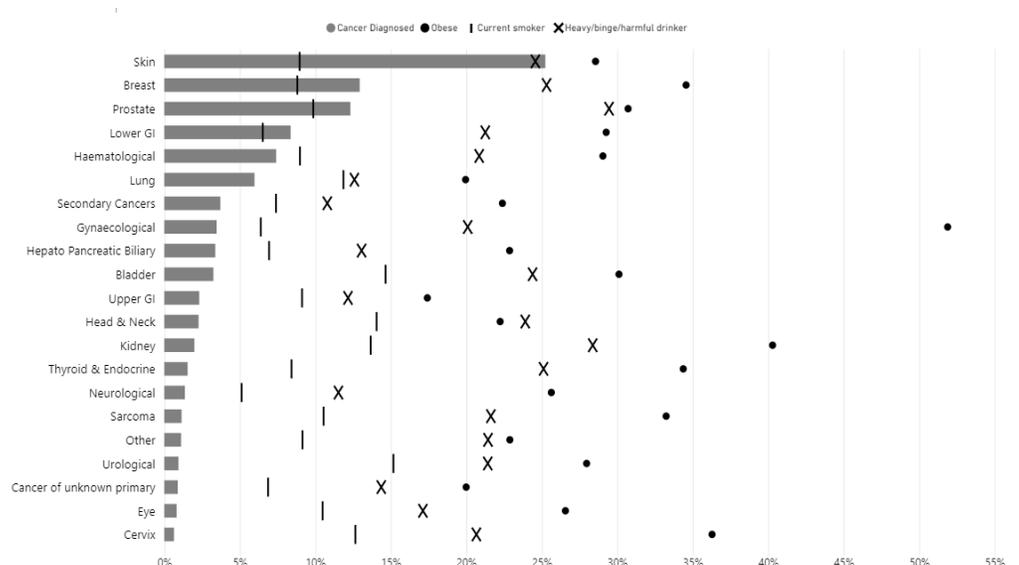
### Proposed WHH HMB Pathway – Gynaecology



Key findings from health insights provisional data included a disproportionate number of women over the age of 16, with co-morbid depression who have been coded for menorrhagia as per the below graph.



Also, a disproportionate number of patients with gynaecological cancer are in the obese category (as per below) demonstrating the need for weight management intervention as a preventative approach.



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## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Better for Women Report 2019, found that 37% of respondents could not access contraception services locally and abortion rates are rising. The FSRH used a tool that estimates for every £1 invested in publicly funded contraception, the public sector will get a £9 return on investment.

As per the recent Women's Health Strategy (2002) we anticipate that the Hub shall create longer term savings for the NHS and reduce pressure on secondary services. According to data from our research, Hubs in other areas of the UK have shifted large amounts of work from secondary care. The Oxford Hub removed over 47% of referrals from outpatient gynae to their community Women's Health Hub.

These results helped us to formulate a business plan for our proof of concept and apply for funding to pilot a Women's Health Hub. According to the Women's Health Strategy (2022), although women usually live longer than men, they spend considerably more time in poor health. Our hubs aim to address this inequality with a life course approach.