



Resource impact statement

Resource impact

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The 2024 guideline update sets out recommendations on progesterone for preventing preterm birth and includes recommendations to offer a cervical length scan in twin and triplet pregnancies.

We expect that the resource impact of this update:

- for any single guideline recommendation in England will be less than £1 million per year (or approximately £1,800 per 100,000 population, based on a population for England of 56.6 million people) **and**
- for implementing the whole guideline in England will be less than £5 million per year (or approximately £8,800 per 100,000 population, based on a population for England of 56.6 million people).

[ONS data](#) shows that in 2022 there were 8,750 multiple births in England and Wales. The recommendation to offer a cervical length scan between 16 and 20 weeks to women or pregnant people with a twin and triplet pregnancy may result in a resource impact at a local level. For maternity units which do not routinely scan twin and triplet pregnancies at present, we expect this update to result in a resource impact for each multiple pregnancy under their care. The average unit cost of a transvaginal ultrasound scan performed by an obstetrics service is £257 as per [National cost collection data](#) for 2023/24. Depending on local circumstances, this guidance may also require additional training of sonographers so that enough staff members are able to measure cervical length.

It is estimated that approximately 1% of those scanned will be found to have a cervix of 25 mm or less. Treatment for those with a short cervix is with vaginal progesterone. The cost of progesterone is around £9 per packet (15 days treatment), the average treatment duration is 14 weeks, giving an average cost per person of £63 (excluding VAT). Progesterone treatment should not give rise to any additional appointments. However, this treatment should reduce preterm births and the associated neonatal morbidity. Preventing preterm births will lead to cost savings, some of which will be delivered over a long timeframe. This is because being born prematurely can result in lifelong adverse health implications, such as cerebral palsy.

Maternity services are commissioned by integrated care boards. Providers are NHS hospital trusts, primary care, and community services.