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## **RQIA Publishes Results of Audit of Mid-Urethral Tape Surgery for the Management of Stress Urinary Incontinence in Northern Ireland**

Today, RQIA has published the findings of a regional clinical audit of the use of mid-urethral tapes for management of stress urinary incontinence in Northern Ireland.

This audit, led by Dr Robin Ashe, assessed the short-term outcomes for 340 patients in receipt of this treatment during 2013, and considered a number of factors including pre-operative care, consent, and surgical workload.

The audit team found:

- 80% of women reported an overall improvement of stress incontinence symptoms following their surgery.
- a high level of input by senior medical staff, with 86% of procedures undertaken by a consultant or specialty doctor.
- the quality of information given to women during the consent process was variable.

This audit makes seven recommendations to improve performance and outcomes for patients. These include:

- Health and social care trusts must ensure that pre-operative care is conducted in line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance.
- Consent for surgery should be in line with best practice
- Surgery should be undertaken by trained practitioners, who conduct at least 20 procedures each year.
- Repeat surgery for stress urinary incontinence should be undertaken within a setting that provides specialised consultant care.
- Data should be submitted to a recognised national audit to facilitate monitoring of results.

The full report can be accessed at: [www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/41/4102a2bb-d835-426a-9b6f-cefdebb9c5c3.pdf](http://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/41/4102a2bb-d835-426a-9b6f-cefdebb9c5c3.pdf)

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