POGP – statement re vaginal mesh for POGP website

The Professional Network of Pelvic Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP) are aware that there has been much press and media interest in the use of mesh for the surgical management of stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. In particular, since June 2014 when its use, in Scotland, was banned by the Scottish government. This ban was implemented a year after a meeting in which women experiencing problems met with the Scottish Health secretary.

POGP members are actively involved in keeping up to date with reports or guidance published, especially those which may impact on the profile of and services provided by our members. POGP members have been involved with various working groups and as well as research projects which have been relevant to the outcomes of some of the interim reports.

At present POGP are keen to draw members’ attention to the documents that have been published which explain the background and the plans for future working parties and enquiries:

1. Scotland final report published March 2017: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00515856.pdf>
2. NHS England Interim Working Report on Mesh:

 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/mesh-wg-interim-rep.pdf>

1. BAUS response to the NHS England interim document: [http://www.baus.org.uk/\_userfiles/pages/files/professionals/sections/female/Response%20to%20NHS%20England%20mesh%20recommendations.pdf](http://www.baus.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/professionals/sections/female/Response%2520to%2520NHS%2520England%2520mesh%2520recommendations.pdf)
2. RCOG information in relation to the NHS England Interim document:

 <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/rcog-policy-briefing-mesh-working-group-interim-report/>

1. Messed up mesh have 2 reps on the Working Group:

 <http://www.tvt-messed-up-mesh.org.uk/NHS-England-Patient-Public-Voice-Members.html>

Of note:

* the Messed UP Mesh website www.tvt-messed-up-mesh.org.uk reports that their working group will be multidisciplinary: “Membership will be multi-professional and include representatives from: NHS England; Department of Health; Scottish Government; Welsh Assembly Government; Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA); British Society of Urogynaecology (BSUG); British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS); and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and patient support groups”
* Additionally we are aware of the lobby group called Sling the Mesh who have a strong social media presence: www.slingthemesh.wordpress.com @meshcampaign on Twitter, Scottish Mesh Survivors Group (Facebook, closed members 235).
* A Mesh helpline (07824 537938) has also been set up since August 2015 It is run by NHS inform, part of NHS Scotland. The helpline is supported by an experienced physiotherapist. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/tests-and-treatments/non-surgical-procedures/transvaginal-mesh-implants>

**Questions? Something to report?**

POGP are always keen to hear from members about how the current mesh debate has affected their practice. Please contact us on the POGP Facebook group (members only), iCSP or directly to the Executive via the website pogp.csp.org.uk.