

# Development of the Post Obstetric Theatre Assessment Tool (POTATo) as a Quality Improvement (QI) Tool in a Tertiary Maternity Unit

Princess Royal Maternity, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Dr Fiona Auld, Dr Ailidh Ramsay, Dr Adam Capek

## Introduction

- There is a global focus on the quality of maternity care and quality improvement (QI) initiatives are shown to be of benefit in clinical practice.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The use of informatics can encourage best practice and improve standards of care in obstetric anaesthesia.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The aim of this project was to develop a tool which would be easily accessible and sustainable in practice to be used in optimising care in obstetric anaesthesia.
- The Post Obstetric Theatre Assessment Tool (POTATo) was developed as a simple and efficient method for assessing areas of clinical practice for improvement (Figure 1).

## Methods

- In order to develop this QI tool, it was agreed within the multidisciplinary team (MDT) that completing a short 3-point survey would be an easily accessible way to continually assess a specific area of clinical practice.
- There was a topic agreed by the MDT and the survey was advertised via a poster QR code in recovery.
- This was to be completed for each patient who attended obstetric theatre by the midwifery team and results were then generated via the Microsoft (MS) forms application.

## Results

- The initial topic chosen for data collection was the availability of recovery equipment and data was successfully collated over a 2 month period.
- During the first 5 weeks of data collection, the average response rate was 5 MS forms completed per week.
- This was significantly lower than the expected rate of obstetric theatre cases, thus a further MDT discussion concluded that the MS forms should instead be completed by the anaesthetic team.
- The data following this significantly improved to an average of 16 MS forms completed per week, thereby **providing more robust and reliable data** to be assessed.

## Conclusion

- This QI tool has been **successfully implemented** in a tertiary maternity unit with **positive feedback from all MDT members**.
- The data was monitored and upon recognition of a low initial response rate, an agreed change was introduced to allow collaborative team efforts and inclusion of anaesthetic team responses.
- This provided an **effective way of collecting data** and has been positively embedded in practice, demonstrating the **importance of collaborative working, flexibility and constant re-evaluation of methods as well as data** in QI. Utilising **novel technology** is a valuable part of assessment and provision of optimal patient care.

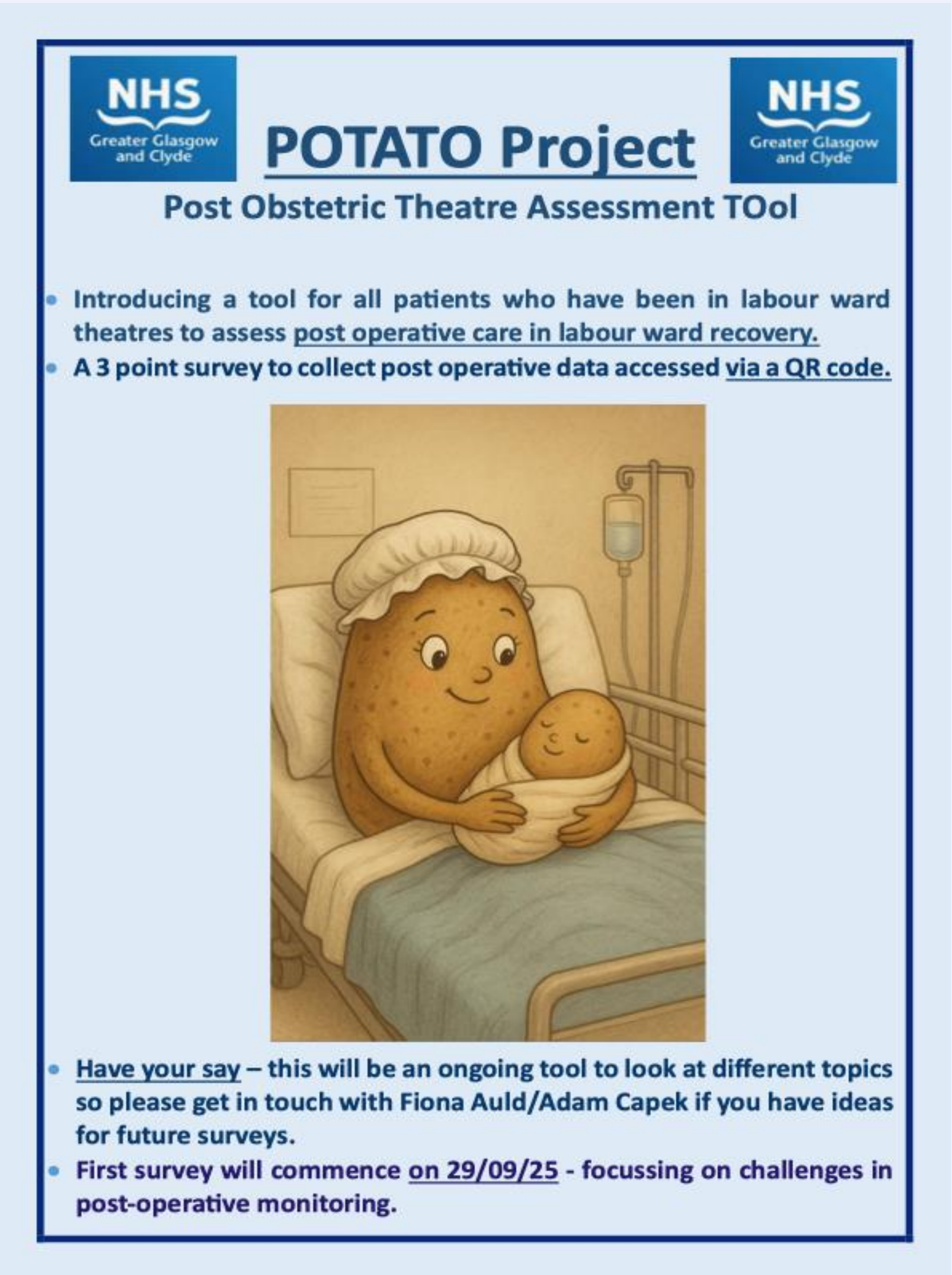


Figure 1: POTATO Project Poster