



FAIRNESS IN FIBROID CARE

Closing the Equity Gap for Women of Colour

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Fibroids disproportionately affect women from the global majority. These women have historically been poorly cared for within the NHS. How can we ensure the service is fit for their needs?

How can we make fibroid care fair?

Large tertiary Fibroid service

serving a diverse population from London and beyond



4 key domains reviewed in NHS EDS* process

- Accessibility
- Meets Patients Needs
- Free From Harm
- Experience

*a process designed to enhance service delivery, foster a non-discriminatory working environment, and meet equality obligations as well as improving the services for local communities.



METHOD:

Extensive review with evidence obtained from clinic data, booking pathways, complaints procedures, guidelines and policies.

This was then presented to a panel of stakeholders who scored the service.

OUR SCORE:

2 out of **3**



= meeting expectations



NEXT STEPS:

We need more **proactive** service reviews with patient involvement in service design and evaluation.

As expected, our service treats a disproportionate amount of women of colour compared to other Gynaecology clinics, more needs to be done to understand their unique experience of healthcare and to facilitate the co-creation of bespoke healthcare services.

Whilst there is increasing awareness about racial inequalities in obstetrics, more work is needed to understand the scope of the issue within gynaecology. We hope to be able to **address cultural influences** that impact patients' treatment choices, **understand their motivation** for seeking care and **meet their expectations**.



This review put **equity at the forefront**. We identified strengths such as extensive signposting and language tools, but also areas for development, e.g. improving engagement with local communities.



Future work will be particularly focussed on increasing patient engagement with service design and evaluation

More work is required to better engage women of colour as a historically underserved group, and enhance the inclusivity of the service through tools such as digital information aids, inclusive images and flexible appointment systems.



Fairness in fibroid care is about **addressing disparities**, improving access, and **building trust** to ensure inclusive, patient-centred healthcare for all.