

Informed consent and caesarean birth: RCOG launches new obstetrics animation

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The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has unveiled an informative new animation designed to support pregnant women and birthing people in understanding what to expect from a planned (elective) caesarean birth.

Launched on 27 November 2024, this new resource aims to strengthen the informed consent process by presenting the risks and benefits of a planned caesarean birth in a clear and accessible way.

Supporting informed consent

The animation is to be used in tandem with the RCOG's existing [Consent Advice on Planned Caesarean Birth](#) as part of the consent process and provides information about the risks, benefits and alternative modes of childbirth to those considering a planned caesarean birth. Dr Geeta Kumar, Vice President of the RCOG, has said:

“Once a pregnant woman or birthing person has decided to have a planned caesarean birth, the consenting process involving an informed discussion with their healthcare professional is a really important step. We produced this resource to support such consent conversations, setting out in simple terms and imagery the key issues that should be covered.”

For maternity services, this animation can serve as a practical tool to improve communication with expectant mothers who have decided on a caesarean birth and help empower them to make informed decisions, leading to better patient experiences and outcomes. It can be used during antenatal consultations to supplement (not replace) verbal discussions, or clinicians can signpost women and birthing people to watch the animation in their own time.

By providing visual and spoken explanations, the animation also supports those who may find written information challenging, helping them to access and understand key details about their care.

From a legal perspective, the use of such resources can strengthen the informed consent process, reducing the risk of miscommunication or misunderstandings that could lead to complaints or litigation.

To view the animation and learn more, visit the [RCOG website](#) and make sure to accept cookies to view the video!

Our specialist maternity team

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