

**PE1517/P**

**Medical Director**

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Date: 14 August 2014  
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Dear Andrew,

**PETITION [PE1517](#) ON POLYPROPYLENE MESH MEDICAL DEVICES**

NHS Orkney has never used any polypropylene transvaginal mesh implants. We have only recently employed gynaecologists in Orkney, and they have not used mesh implants in Orkney. Orkney patients who might have been in need of such procedures where mesh might have been implanted have been managed in NHS Grampian. NHS Orkney has not received any complaints about mesh implants in the last five years.

Although these mesh implants have not been used in Orkney before, our newly appointed gynaecologists will have to manage patients with urinary incontinence and uterine prolapse in Orkney in future. The clinicians inform me that the transvaginal mesh implants for uterine prolapse are the most troublesome, and they do not think there is an indication for this procedure.

However, they informed me that the evidence against mesh grafts for urinary incontinence is less conclusive. They do feel that mesh grafts in this instance can be very helpful and that most patients do very well. They do concede that complications of such mesh grafts can be very troublesome.

We do not have the experience in Orkney to be able to have a position on the use or not of mesh grafts. However, we do feel that whatever the outcome of this debate, the debate should hinge predominantly on clinical evidence, so that once the heat is out of the arguments, we can defend the outcome on clinical grounds.

Yours sincerely

**MARTHINUS ROOS**  
**Medical Director**