

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: All in Maternity

**From: Surindra Maharaj (Cons O&G), Kate Boyle (Interim Head of Midwifery) and
Lynsay McAulay (Senior Pharmacist).**

Date effective: 2nd April 2026

**Subject: Change of induction of labour process due to supply problem with
prostin tablets and gel.**

Temporary change: Use of Propess® pessaries, described below.

Due to a short supply of prostin tablets and gel, the first-line option for induction of labour in women/pregnant people with an unfavourable cervix and intact membranes will be the Cook's balloon as per current "Induction of Labour" guideline. In women/pregnant people where a Cook's balloon is not possible, the unit will now be using the **Propess®** vaginal delivery system.

Any remaining stock of prostin gel is ONLY TO BE USED in women/pregnant people requiring augmentation of labour in the presence of ruptured membranes until further notice.

Clinical application of use of **Propess®** vaginal delivery system is as follows:

Propess®

To be used for induction of labour in women with an unfavourable cervix where a Cook's balloon cannot be used.

The proposed SOP for **Propess®** vaginal delivery system is embedded.



SOP.pdf



Propess flow
chart.pdf

For the complete license for the Propess vaginal delivery system (including contraindications, cautions and side effects), please see the following:
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100896/smpc>

NB - frequently **Propess®** vaginal delivery system falls out – this is often due to poor insertion, or may be due to onset of spontaneous labour. Make sure you are adequately trained and supervised before you insert **Propess®** vaginal delivery system – education sessions are being arranged and ask senior colleagues/unit co-ordinator for support if you are not confident with your insertion technique.

Propess® vaginal delivery system should be stored in the allocated drug freezer.