

PartoSure (and alternative technologies identified during scoping) to help predict preterm labour in women with intact membranes

PartoSure is a point-of-care test that detects placental alpha macroglobulin-1 (PAMG-1) in the vaginal secretions of pregnant women. It is intended for use alongside clinical judgement to assess the risk of preterm birth in women with symptoms of preterm labour who have intact membranes. A positive test result indicates that delivery is likely to occur within 7 days, whereas a negative test result suggests that delivery is not likely within the next 7 to 14 days. The results of the test could help clinicians decide which women can be safely sent home and which need to be admitted to hospital and given treatment to try to delay birth and improve neonatal outcomes. Use of PartoSure may result in more accurate prediction of preterm labour compared with tests currently used in NHS clinical practice. An effective way of predicting preterm delivery could lead to improved health outcomes for women and their babies. Cost savings may also be achieved through: reductions in the length of hospital stay of women at high risk of preterm birth; decreasing unnecessary hospital admissions and administrations of treatments such as corticosteroids and tocolytics; and minimising unnecessary transfers between hospitals. The NICE Diagnostics Assessment Programme will assess the clinical and cost effectiveness of PartoSure (and alternative technologies identified during scoping) in order to make recommendations on their use in the NHS.