

(Submitted online to future NHS 28/8/2025)

Knowledge and Library Services Case Study

Date of report: 25th July 2025

Organisation of service user:

The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Title of Case Study

Supporting Research into Health Inequalities in Arthroplasty Outcomes through Expert Literature Searching

Reason for enquiry or knowledge need

To gather evidence on how social deprivation and ethnicity affect Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in total hip and knee replacements, forming the basis for a new research project addressing health inequality in surgical outcomes.

What the knowledge and library specialist did

The ROH Librarian conducted a comprehensive literature search across medical databases, grey literature, and NHS sources. The librarian spent 180 minutes identifying relevant evidence and delivered a structured report with summaries, links to full text (where available), and signposting to article request services. The report was rated 5/5 for relevance and time-saving by the service user.

Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

The expert input from the library enabled a time-efficient, evidence-based foundation for a clinically relevant research project. By delivering targeted, high-quality literature on a complex topic, the library service supported informed decision-making, saved staff time, and enhanced the overall quality of the research.

Immediate Impact Description:

The evidence provided directly supported the early development of a research project on the role of social deprivation in arthroplasty outcomes. It helped shape the research question, provided a time-saving resource for the researcher, and confirmed the relevance of the topic within the literature base.

Quotes:

“Hugely helpful and time-saving to the research project.”

Probable future Impact

Description:

The findings from this project may be used to:

- Identify gaps in care delivery for deprived populations.
- Inform the design of further studies into causal links between deprivation and outcomes.
- Publish findings to guide public health policy and discussions on health equity in surgery. Ultimately, this could lead to improvements in care quality, access, and fairness in joint replacement services.

Quotes:

“This kind of information helps reveal and address inequality in health outcomes—so it can be used to make joint replacement surgery more effective, fair, and accessible for everyone, regardless of their social background.”

Name and Job Title:

Mr James Archer, ST7, Trauma and Orthopaedics

Gareth Sunley, Librarian Team Leader, The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

For further information on how you can get similar support contact your local NHS library and knowledge service.

Submission Details

Knowledge and Library Service Details:

Organisation: The Royal Orthopaedic NHS Foundation Trust

Contact name: Gareth Sunley

Contact email: Gareth.sunley1@nhs.net

NHS Region *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

East of England

London

Midlands

North East and Yorkshire

North West
South East
South West

Sector user is based in: *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Acute
Acute and community
Care Trust
Commissioning Support
Community Trust
Cross-sector
Integrated Care Board
Integrated Care System
Mental Health
Mental Health / Learning Disability
Mental Health / Social Care
Primary Care
Public Health
Shared Service / Informatics
Social Care
Special HA
Other. If other, please specify

Specialist Foundation Trust

Group Impacted *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Additional Clinical Services
Administrative and Clerical
Allied Health Professionals
Estates and Ancillary
Healthcare Scientists
Medicine and Dental
Multiprofessional
Patients, Carers and the Public
Nursing and Midwifery
Scientific and Technical
Students

Impact Types *[Make bold any of the impact types below which apply]*

Contributed to personal or professional development

Contributed to service development or delivery

Facilitated collaborative working

Health Information for Patients, Carers and the Public

Improved the quality of patient care

Mobilising evidence and organisational knowledge

More informed decision making

Productivity and efficiency

Reduced risk or improved safety

Saved money or contributed to financial effectiveness

Improved health and wellbeing of staff and learners

Consent

I have consent from individuals referred to in this case study to share details nationally for advocacy and promotion. *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Yes

No