

## Healthcare experiences and needs of parents following Termination of Pregnancy for Fetal Anomaly: A systematic review

### Background

- European figures for termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly (TOPFA) suggest a prevalence rate of 4.6 per 1,000 births
- Existing literature reviews regarding TOPFA have explored the psychological experience and impact of this phenomenon
- To date there has been limited consideration of the holistic healthcare experience of parents

### Purpose

To synthesise findings from international literature on the healthcare experiences and needs of parents who undergo a TOPFA

### Methods

#### Databases

Six electronic databases were searched: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL, Web of Science, and Cochrane

#### Keywords

Termination of pregnancy, fetal anomaly, congenital abnormalities [MeSH], abortion, induced [MeSH], patient experiences, healthcare, health needs

### Results

26 records were identified as relevant for this review, of which 21 were qualitative and 5 quantitative.

A narrative thematic synthesis was carried out and 4 themes were identified:

1. **Person-Centred Care**
2. **Compassionate Care**
3. **Co-ordinated Care**
4. **Inclusive Care**



### Implications for Practice

#### Policy

Policy makers, healthcare commissioners and legal representatives need to recognise the complex needs of parents in this situation. Continuity of care models should be explored as well as the development of specialist roles in this service.

#### Practice

Healthcare professionals need to be supported and trained to meet the needs of parents undergoing TOPFA. This includes system infrastructure, as well as appropriate training and support for health professionals to develop their knowledge and skills.

#### Research

In depth primary research with both parents and health professionals would be beneficial and could help inform and improve service delivery. This knowledge would have the potential to positively impact on parents' experience and improve the quality of care provided.

Theme	Subtheme
<b>Person-Centred Care</b> The perceived impact of responsive and respectful healthcare in helping parents feel empowered through this experience	Information Choice Decision Making
<b>Compassionate Care</b> The perceived quality of the relationship a healthcare professional makes with parents and the impact on their satisfaction with their care experience	Empathy Experienced Staff Non-judgemental Staff
<b>Co-ordinated Care</b> The perceived impact of the administrative arrangements, service availability and physical environment on the perceived quality of the care experience	Internal Organisation Care Provision and Pathway Environment
<b>Inclusive Care</b> The perceived impact of the health system and healthcare professionals in recognizing and facilitating the involvement of partners	Invisible Parent Supporting Carers