

Appendix C

Key questions to ask your consultant about hip replacement

In the light of our work, we have identified key questions for hip replacement surgery. They form the basis for the sort of information that clinicians may wish to discuss with patients about to undergo hip replacement.

1. What alternative treatments are available?
2. What hip prosthesis will you use? Why?
3. Will you be using a cemented or cementless prosthesis? Why?
4. What are your results using that prosthesis?
5. What published evidence of long-term effectiveness is there for that prosthesis?
6. What possible complications might I expect?
7. Do you use general anaesthetic or spinal/epidural anaesthetic?
8. How long should I expect to stay in hospital?
9. Will you perform the operation yourself?
10. How many primary hip replacements do you perform each year?
11. What are your deep infection rates?
12. Can I pre-donate my own blood for use during the operation?
13. How long will I have to wait for the operation?
14. How will you manage my condition while I am on the waiting list?

- 15.** What happens if my condition worsens?
- 16.** Is there anything I can do in the meantime to better prepare myself for the operation?
- 17.** What facilities are there for rehabilitation?
- 18.** How often and for how long will you follow-up my condition after the operation?
- 19.** How long can I expect my new hip to last before it needs to be replaced again?