



Maternity & Neonatal Bulletin

April 2026

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice on Maternity and Neonatal

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Maternity
UK guidelines
NICE: Fetal monitoring in labour [last updated 25 March 2026]
RCOG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Pregnancy Following Assisted Conception Scientific Impact Paper No. 22 (3rd ed.) • Reduced Fetal Movements Green-Top Guideline No. 57 (2nd ed.)
Maternity services
This briefing from the Resolution Foundation explores Britain's recent baby bust and whether it should be a cause for concern for policy makers. Most developed countries are grappling with a falling birth rate, and the UK is no different. There have always been a range of reasons that people postpone having children or choose not to have them at all – some reflecting preferences (such as prioritising education, careers or simply not wanting children), and some driven by constraints (from fertility difficulties to economic pressures). After a baby boom in the 2000s, the UK's total fertility rate has fallen sharply since 2012 – reaching a joint-record low of 1.6 children per woman in 2023, with the latest 2024 figures suggesting it could fall further still.
Workforce & education
Waterfall, K., 2026. The midwife as a border force: how hostile environment policies impact maternity care. <i>British Journal of Midwifery</i> , 34(4), pp.223-231. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net



Equality, diversity and inclusion

Furness, A., De Vivo, M. and Soltani, H., 2026. **Physical activity during the perinatal period among women from marginalised backgrounds.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 34(4), pp.186-196. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Complications

Braga, A., et al. 2026. **Twin molar pregnancy: a diagnostic framework for early recognition and appropriate management.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 39(1). doi: 10.1080/14767058.2026.2662133. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Febles, M., et al. 2026. **Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy: A Systematic Review of International Clinical Practice Guidelines.** *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Woo Kinshella, M.L., et al. 2026. **Integrating Social and Clinical Determinants of Pre-Eclampsia: A Hierarchical Systematic Review and Conceptual Framework for Prevention.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Labour & birth

Hernández-Martínez, M.L., et al. 2025. **Clinical Practice Guidelines on Normal Labour and Childbirth: A Systematic Review.** *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Lynch, K., et al. 2026. **Evaluation of Clinical Practice Guidelines on Timing and Onset of Labour in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: A Scoping Review.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Schwartz, A., et al. 2026. **Antenatal Prediction of Shoulder Dystocia and Birth Trauma Using Routine Maternal and Ultrasound Variables: Retrospective Cohort Study.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Wade, T., et al. 2025. **Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in women undergoing caesarean delivery: a systematic review of clinical practice guidelines.** *Journal of Hospital Infection*. Available here: [Journal of Hospital Infection](#)

Pregnancy loss

Miscarriage is the most common complication of early pregnancy with approximately 250,000 miscarriages occurring in the UK each year. Current NHS practice only routinely offers follow-up care, that could help prevent the loss of another baby, after three losses despite the risks of pregnancy complications and long-term. The [Tommy's Graded Model of Miscarriage Care, developed and piloted by the team at Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research](#), addresses the gap in care by offering targeted support after every miscarriage. The model creates earlier opportunities to support families devastated by loss and to identify treatable health issues and other risk factors that can affect pregnancy outcomes.

Oshikanlu, R., 2026. **Addressing fear of miscarriage.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 34(4), pp.232-234. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Infant feeding

Bertol, A.B., et al. 2025. **The analgesic effects of human milk odor in preterm neonates: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-7. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

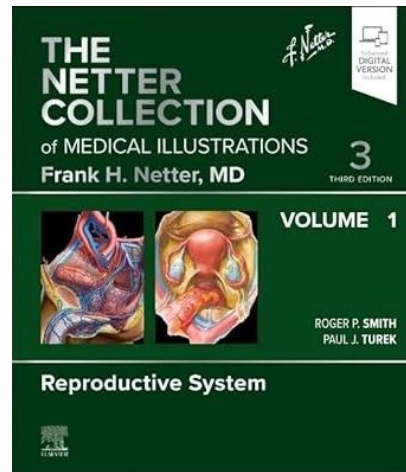
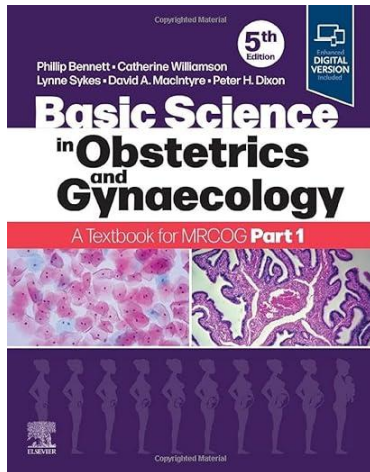


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[Netter Collection of Medical Illustrations: Reproductive System](#)





Neonatal

Cochrane reviews

[Insulin-like growth factor-1 for the prevention or treatment of retinopathy of prematurity](#)

Recently published research

Adegboye, C., et al. 2026. **Immunoglobulin therapy for the fetus and neonate.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(3), pp.F190-F195. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Bache, A., et al. 2026. **Parental experience of having a child with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy: a qualitative study.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(3), pp.F219-F226. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Bertol, A.B., et al. 2025. **The analgesic effects of human milk odor in preterm neonates: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-7. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Boutros, I., et al. 2026. **A mixed-methods systematic review of interventions for parents during and after neonatal end of life in the neonatal intensive care unit.** *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, 32(4), pp.194-206. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Duignan, S.M., et al. 2026. **Neonatal sepsis and cardiovascular dysfunction II: assessment.** *Pediatric Research*, pp.1-14. Available here: [Pediatric Research](#)

Fenton, T.R., et al. 2026, April. **Expert recommendations for preterm neonates' growth goals: Considerations for clinicians.** In *Seminars in Perinatology* (p. 152228). WB Saunders. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Goel, R., et al. 2026. **Platelet Transfusion Practices and Outcomes in Neonates and Children.** *JAMA Network Open*, 9(1), p.e2554531. Available here: [JAMA Network Open](#)

Gonzalez, L.D. and Rodriguez-Warren, D., 2026. **The benefits of long peripheral catheters in neonatal care.** *British Journal of Nursing*, 35(7), pp.S18-S18. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Isaac Maximo, L.M., et al. 2026. **Pulmonary Hypertension Association with mortality in Newborns with Giant Omphalocele: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *Neonatology*. Available here: [Neonatology](#)

Noureldein, M., et al. 2026. **Prognostic value of haemodynamic and neurophysiological assessments in newborns with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy undergoing whole-body therapeutic hypothermia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of short-term outcomes.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Payne, H., et al. 2026. **Value of targeted testing for cytomegalovirus in preterm infants: 7 years' experience at a tertiary London hospital.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(3), pp.F256-F261. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Rajaprakash, M., et al. 2025. **Neurodevelopmental outcomes of prenatal opioid exposure and neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome: A systematic review from birth to early adulthood.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-10. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Singh, Y., et al. 2026. **Expert Consensus Framework for Standardizing Lung Ultrasound Training for Neonatologists issued by ESPNIC Neonatal Critical Care Section and Point-of-**



care Ultrasound Working Group. *Chest*. Available on request:
ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Tavakoli, N.P., et al. 2026. **Universal newborn screening for congenital cytomegalovirus using dried blood spot specimens.** *JAMA Network Open*, 9(1), p.e2554518. Available here:
[JAMA Network Open](#)

Xiao, X., et al. 2026. **Effectiveness of Nursing Intervention on Maternal Mental Health Symptoms Among Patients Admitted to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A Meta-Analysis.** *Nursing in Critical Care*, 31(2), p.e70351. Available on request:
ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Zuo, Y., et al. 2026. **Exploring the experiences of neonatal parents for neonatal palliative care: a meta-synthesis of qualitative research.** *BMC Palliative Care*, 25(1), p.33. Available here: [BMC Palliative Care](#)

A selection of Neonatal ebooks available on our library catalogue

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[Avery's Diseases of the Newborn](#)

[Fanaroff and Martin's Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine: Diseases of the Fetus and Infant](#)

[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Hematology and Transfusion Medicine](#)

[Neonatal Questions and Controversies: Infectious Disease, Immunology, and Pharmacology](#)

[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Neonatal Hemodynamics](#)

[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Neurology](#)

[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Renal, Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders](#)

[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: The Newborn Lung](#)

[Remington and Klein's Infectious Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn Infant](#)

[Volpe's Neurology of the Newborn](#)

