



# Maternity & Neonatal Bulletin:

## August/September 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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### Monthly highlight

Landmark patient safety initiative, [Martha's Rule, rolled out to all maternity settings](#) after review found serious and sustained failures.

### Maternity

#### UK guidelines

**RCOG:** [Care of the Newborn and Cord During the Third Stage of Labour \(Scientific Impact Paper No. 78\)](#)

**RCOG:** [Pre-Eclampsia and Maternal Cardiovascular Function: Insights Into Pathophysiology and Care \(Scientific Impact Paper No. 79\)](#)

**RCOG:** [Shoulder Dystocia: Green-Top Guideline No. 42](#)

#### International guidelines

**IUGA:** [International Guidelines on Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries](#)

#### Cochrane reviews

[Continuation versus discontinuation of intravenous oxytocin in the active phase of labour](#)

### Maternity services

Developed in response to recent independent reviews of maternity and neonatal services, these documents from [NHS England set out the assurance process for the Maternity and Neonatal 10 Point Plan](#) and the expectations for Trusts.

This report from [Health Quality Improvement Partnership](#) presents findings from almost 600,000 singleton births in NHS maternity services across England, Scotland and Wales during 2024 – highlighting inequalities in timely access to maternity care and changing patterns of birth.

This report from [Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations](#) sets out a number of areas in which care could be improved for women receiving intrapartum care at home. The report provides a series of safety observations and prompts for NHS trusts on topics such as staffing availability, training and guidance, and communications between different care professionals.



van Veggel, N., et al. 2026. **Perceptions of professional advocacy among nurses and midwives in an NHS trust: a qualitative descriptive study.** *British Journal of Healthcare Management*, 32(7), pp.1-12. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

### Equality, diversity and inclusion

Kiilu, E.M., et al. 2026. **A qualitative exploration of migrant women's experiences of a perinatal befriending programme.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 34(7), pp.368-374. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Meads, C., et al. 2026. **Transmasculine pregnancy—Occurrence, associations, and outcomes: A quantitative systematic review.** *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*. Available here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Tilden, E., et al. 2026. **Effective perinatal mental healthcare requires cultural sensitivity and responsive intervention tailoring.** *Evidence Based Nursing*, 29(3), pp.134-134. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

### Mental health

Blackman, A., et al. 2026. **Mental health outcomes after severe pregnancy complications: a scoping review.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Ramírez-Gil, C., et al. 2026. **How do women with a history of childhood sexual abuse experience the preconception and perinatal period? A qualitative systematic review.** *Midwifery*, p.104930. Available from: [Midwifery](#)

### Antenatal care

Sabuncular, G., et al. 2026. **Nutritional Interventions During Pregnancy Improve Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials.** *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. Available here: [Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health](#)

### Pharmacology

**Specialist Pharmacy Service:** [Treating urinary disorders during breastfeeding](#)

### Complications

BJOG: Volume 133, Issue S4: **Supplement: Determinants of Pre-Eclampsia: Advancing a Conceptual Framework.** Available here: [BJOG](#)

Baldock, S. and Shawe, J., 2026. **Optimising fetal growth monitoring in midwifery-led care: audit findings and women's experiences.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 34(7), pp.376-382. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Barrett, P., et al. 2026. **Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and the Long-Term Risk of Maternal Retinal and Ophthalmic Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Duncan, J., et al. 2026. **Controversies in the management of fetal growth restriction: a state-of-the-art-review.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*. Available here: [The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine](#)



Henderson, I., et al. 2026. **Comparison of Definitions of Severe Maternal Morbidity: A National Cohort Study Using Administrative Data.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Ismail, S., et al. 2026. **Maternal-to-Child-Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Maternal Preterm Premature Rupture of the Membranes: A Systematic Review.** *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research*, 52(7), p.e70380. Available here: [Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research](#)

Karimi, P., et al. 2026. **Maternal anemia and the risk of preterm birth: a meta-analysis.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 39(1), p.2722830. Available here: The [Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Medicine](#)

Limruangrong, P., et al. 2026. **Anxiety in pregnancy complicated by gestational and pre-gestational diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Scott, R., et al. 2026. **Clinicians' Knowledge and Understanding of Pregnancy-Related VTE Risk and Its Assessment in the UK: A Survey of Risk Perception in Complex Times.** *BJOG*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Zeng, S., et al. 2026. **Adverse outcome in Cesarean scar pregnancy continuing into mid-to-late gestation: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Zheng, L., et al. 2026. **A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of continuous glucose monitoring compared to self-monitoring of blood glucose on glycemic control and maternal and infant outcomes in women with gestational diabetes mellitus.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

## **Labour & birth**

Andersson, G., et al. 2026. **Vaginal Misoprostol Compared to Vaginal Dinoprostone for Induction of Labour: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Farizi, S.A., et al. 2026. **Expectations vs experiences of birth: a systematic review and bibliometric analysis.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 34(8), pp.454-466. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Gao, Q., et al. 2026. **The efficacy of tranexamic acid for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage among women at high risk of postpartum hemorrhage undergoing cesarean section: a meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Kearns, R.J., et al. 2026. **Epidural analgesia in labour and neonatal and childhood outcomes: national population-based cohort study.** *BMJ*, 394. Available here: [BMJ](#)

van der Krogt, L., et al. 2026. **High Versus Low Transvaginal Cerclage and Pregnancy Outcomes: A Secondary Analysis of the C-STICH Trial.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Yeretsian, T., et al. 2026. **Oral Misoprostol Versus Vaginal Dinoprostone for Labor Induction: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research*, 52(8), p.e70369. Available here: [The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research](#)



## Infant Feeding

Chmelova, K., et al. 2026. **Donor human milk for maternal milk shortfall in preterm infants: a feasibility randomised controlled trial.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Manzini, C., et al. 2026. **Association between breastfeeding and pelvic floor dysfunction: a systematic review.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

## Neonatal

### UK guidelines

**RCOG: Care of the Newborn and Cord During the Third Stage of Labour (Scientific Impact Paper No. 78)**

### Cochrane reviews

[Methylxanthines for the prevention or treatment of intermittent hypoxemia or respiratory insufficiency in late preterm infants](#)

### Evidence reviews

Alansari, A.N., et al. 2026. **Outcomes of early enteral feeding in very low birth weight infants: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** *Pediatrics & Neonatology*. Available here: [Pediatrics & Neonatology](#)

Baker, J., et al. 2026. **In preterm neonates, does extending non-invasive respiratory support beyond ventilatory needs improve somatic growth?.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 111(7), pp.657-659. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Bear, D.E., et al. 2026. **Artificial Nutrition Support During Acute Illness in Pregnancy: A Scoping Review.** *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics*, 39(4), p.e70315. Available here: [Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

Boel, L., et al. 2025. **Trends of care patterns and outcomes of very low birth weight infants ( $\leq 1500$  g) born after 27 weeks of gestation in South Wales, UK.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-9. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Burnham, L., Lichstein, W. and Lyford, A., 2026. **Maternal risk factors associated with neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis: a meta-analysis and systematic review.** *BMC Pediatrics*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Gritsay, E., et al. 2026. **Postnatally acquired cytomegalovirus infection in preterm infants: an update on diagnosis, management and outcomes.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Ibrahim, J., et al. 2026. **ECMO use in infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia: a literature review.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-9. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Lakshminrusimha, S., et al. 2026. **Resuscitation of neonatal critical care: a call for identity and course correction.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-6. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)



Li, H., et al. 2026. **Elevated HMGB1 Levels in Neonates With Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *Canadian Respiratory Journal*, 2026(1), p.2816142. Available here: [Canadian Respiratory Journal](#)

Rao, S.C., et al. 2026. **Active pharmacotherapy versus expectant management of patent ductus arteriosus in extremely preterm infants: a meta-analysis with trial sequential analysis.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Sanfilippo, M., et al. 2026. **NAVA use in infants with established bronchopulmonary dysplasia, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, and those on ECMO: a narrative literature review.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-10. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Scudder, P., et al. 2026. **Gestational Age-Specific Prevalence of Retinopathy of Prematurity in Very Preterm Infants: An Exploratory Meta-Analysis.** *Acta Paediatrica*. Available here: [Acta Paediatrica](#)

### UK-based research

Campbell-Yeo, M. and Goldchtaub, L., 2026. **Parent–infant communication should include vocal and physical interaction from mothers and fathers in the neonatal setting.** *Evidence Based Nursing*, 29(3), pp.142-142. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Clark, R.M., et al. 2026. **Neonatal hypertriglyceridaemia management: a UK survey of practices and perspectives.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Cornwell, J., et al. 2026. **Neonatal jaundice assessment across all skin tones: finding the gaps between guidelines and practice.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood. Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(5), p.e330053. Available here: [Archives of Disease in Childhood Fetal and Neonatal Edition](#)

Kannan Loganathan, P., et al. 2026. **Comparison of functional features and user experience with different types of video laryngoscopes when used on neonatal manikins.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(5), pp.F453-F459. Available here: [Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition](#)

Rabindranathnambi, N., et al. 2026. **Management of muscular hypertonia in infants: survey of current UK practice.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Rusi, H.C. and Brockway, M.M., 2025. **Mother’s experiences and behaviours are correlated with breastfeeding outcomes in very preterm infants on neonatal units.** *Evidence-Based Nursing*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Sorice, V. and Stublely, E., 2026. **Exploring the need for educational intervention and sustained support of neonatal nurses to improve care and outcomes of preterm infants transitioning to oral feeding: a commentary.** *Evidence Based Nursing*, 29(3), pp.147-148. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

### International research

Mitra, S., et al. 2026. **Pharmacologic therapies for patent ductus arteriosus in extremely preterm infants.** *JAMA network open*, 9(6), p.e2617477. Available here: [JAMA Network Open](#)



Shah, B.A., et al. 2026. **Prophylactic CPAP at Cesarean Birth in Late-Preterm Newborns: A Multicenter RCT.** *Pediatrics*, p.e2025070998. Available here: [Pediatrics](#)