



Maternity & Neonatal Bulletin

December 2025

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](#)

November 2025: We have deleted the reference to late decelerations from the amber category of cardiotocography traces and amended the red category (both in recommendation 1.4.24) to clarify that late decelerations are a red feature regardless of duration or whether or not they are repetitive. This is because late decelerations are associated with fetal hypoxia. We have corrected the definition of late deceleration to remove the reference to them being repetitive and periodic.

International guidelines

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: [Clinical practice update: Zuranolone and Brexanolone for the Treatment of Postpartum Depression](#)

American Heart Association: [Blood pressure classification and subsequent risk of preeclampsia](#)

FIGO:

[Committee opinion: Environmental drivers of obstetric health and early childhood development](#)

[Good practice recommendations on anemia in pregnancy, to reduce the incidence and impact of postpartum hemorrhage \(PPH\)](#)

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine: [Special statement: Checklists for triage and work-up of persons with symptoms suggestive of cardiovascular disease in pregnancy and postpartum](#)

Cochrane Reviews

[Immediate or early skin-to-skin contact for mothers and their healthy newborn infants](#)



Maternity services

Alessia, M., et al. 2025. **Factors influencing the implementation of the Woman-Centred Care model for pregnant women in a hospital setting: an integrative review.** *Midwifery*, p.104650. Available here: [Midwifery](#)

Mental health

Couch, E., et al. 2025. **Effectiveness of Psychological Therapies for Depression During the Perinatal Period: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.** *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Feldman, N., et al. 2025. **Postpartum anxiety: a state-of-the-art review.** *The Lancet Psychiatry*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Middleton, L., 2025. **The Birth Trauma Cycle: expanding understanding of birth trauma.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(11), pp.632-641. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Antenatal care

Walker, P., et al. 2025. **A scoping review of models of care and services for nausea and vomiting in pregnancy and hyperemesis gravidarum.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), p.1012. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Pharmacology

Sheikh, J., et al. 2025. **Maternal paracetamol (acetaminophen) use during pregnancy and risk of autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder in offspring: umbrella review of systematic reviews.** *BMJ*, 391. Available here: [BMJ](#)

Yang, X., et al. 2025. **Safety of Valproic Acid Use in Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research*, 51(11), p.e70121. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Complications

This [report, written by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, examines the evidence regarding the impact of outdoor air pollution on adverse birth outcomes](#). The authors conducted a review of epidemiological research available to mid-2021. It also considers mechanistic studies and discusses how the biological impacts of air pollution might be linked to the outcomes studied. The findings show that many of the published systematic reviews were not of a suitable quality to draw firm conclusions regarding the likelihood that air pollutants (particulate matter – PM2.5 and PM10, nitrogen dioxide and ozone) are associated with low birth weight, pre-term birth or stillbirth. It concludes that new systematic reviews and meta-analyses are required that would include recently published studies.

Dhabekar, P.D., et al. 2025. **Association between the female survivors of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer and the adverse obstetric and feto-maternal outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net



Jeyaraman, D., et al. 2025. **Cardiovascular and Renal Outcomes Following Acute Kidney Injury in Pregnancy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Karentius, S., et al. 2025. **Overdiagnosis in Screening for Gestational Diabetes: A Scoping Review.** *Midwifery*, p.104646. Available here: [Midwifery](#)

Manquillo-Lopez, D.F., et al. 2025. **Complex of deformities, adhesions and amniotic amputations involving the umbilical cord.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(11), pp.628-631. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Rondagh, M., et al. 2025. **Brain injury and neurodevelopmental outcome in survivors after spontaneous single fetal demise in monochorionic twins: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Salmeri, N., et al. 2025. **Multiple pregnancy with complete hydatidiform mole and coexisting normal fetus: systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical outcomes from non-randomized studies.** *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*. Available here: [Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology](#)

Yan, Q., et al. 2025. **Influencing factors to self-management among women with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy: A qualitative systematic review using the COM-B model.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Labour & birth

Based on births in NHS maternity services in England, Scotland and Wales during 2023, this [report from the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit \(NMPA\)](#) finds that one in three women and birthing people had an induction of labour (IOL). Of those who were induced, one in three gave birth by caesarean.

Callado, G.Y., et al. 2025. **Maternal and infant outcomes of planned mode of delivery in twin pregnancies: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*. Available here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Demetri, A., et al. 2025. **What should be discussed when considering a vaginal birth? A Delphi consensus study.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Hantoushzadeh, S., et al. 2025. **First-trimester cervical length screening and the risk of preterm birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), p.1018. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Pembrey, L., et al. 2025. **Timing of Intrapartum Antibiotics at Caesarean Section and Risk of Asthma, Eczema and Allergic Rhinitis: Results from a Natural Experiment.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)



Pregnancy loss

BJOG, Volume 132, Issue S8: Supplement - Vulnerable Newborn Measurement Collaboration: multi-country analyses of preterm births and small-for-gestational age.

- [Stillbirths: Contribution of preterm birth and size-for-gestational age for 125.4 million total births from nationwide records in 13 countries, 2000–2020](#)
- [Stillbirth risk by fetal size among 126.5 million births in 15 countries from 2000 to 2020: A fetuses-at-risk approach](#)

Abdul-Mumin, K.H., et al. 2025. **Strengthening self-care following miscarriage: empowering women and their partners.** British Journal of Midwifery, 33(11), pp.642-649. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Postnatal care

Atalay, H.T., et al. 2025. **Barriers and enablers of community-based Kangaroo Mother Care (cKMC) practice: a mixed methods systematic review.** BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 25(1), p.1114. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Buchanan, K., et al. 2025. **Midwife-led birth debrief: A concept analysis.** Midwifery, p.104647. Available here: [Midwifery](#)

Flanagan, M., et al. 2025. **The Effectiveness of Oxytocin for Preventing Postpartum Haemorrhage: An Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis.** BJOG. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Goes, A.S., et al. 2025. **Factors related to postpartum length of stay in women with pre-eclampsia: a systematic review.** BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 25(1), p.1107. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Makama, M., et al. 2025. **Safety and Effectiveness of Uterine Gauze Packing for Refractory Postpartum Haemorrhage: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** BJOG. Available here: [BJOG](#)

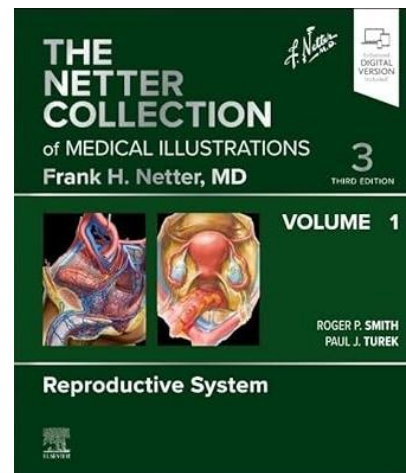
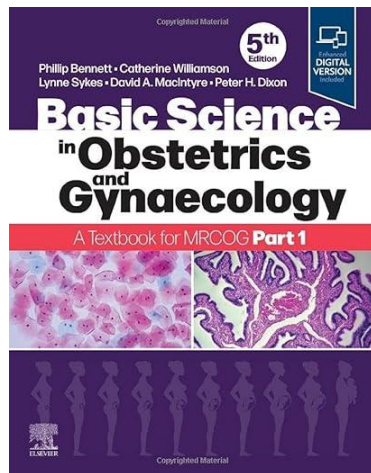


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[Basic Science in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: A Textbook for MRCOG Part 1](#)

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





Neonatal

Neonatal services

This [report from the Royal College of Pathologists highlights the crisis across UK paediatric and perinatal pathology services](#). Severe workforce shortages prevent consultants from meeting demand, causing unacceptable delays for families awaiting test results and increased waiting times or transfer out of region for post-mortem examinations of babies and children. Urgent, long-overdue workforce strategies are needed to resolve this worsening situation.

In 2023, the NHS Race and Health Observatory published a Review into Neonatal Assessment and Practice in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Newborns. It found that many tests designed to assess the health of newborns are not fit-for-purpose for Black, Asian and ethnic minority babies. Their work was highly influential and eighteen-months on, [significant changes in policy, education, and clinical practice have now taken place as a result, which they have detailed in this new infographic](#).

Dongre, S., et al. 2025. **Developing neonatal point-of-care lung ultrasound training using Kern's six-step approach: the experience from a UK tertiary neonatal unit.** *Pediatrics & Neonatology*. Available here: [Pediatrics & Neonatology](#)

Wu, J., et al. 2025. **Needs for discharge planning among parents of preterm infants in the NICU: a systematic review and meta-synthesis.** *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, p.1667721. Available here: [Frontiers in Public Health](#)

General

BJOG, Volume 132, Issue S8: Supplement - Vulnerable Newborn Measurement Collaboration: multi-country analyses of preterm births and small-for-gestational age.

- [Vulnerable newborn types: Analysis of population-based registries for 165 million births in 23 countries, 2000–2021](#)
- [Vulnerable newborn types: analysis of subnational, population-based birth cohorts for 541 285 live births in 23 countries, 2000–2021](#)
- [Neonatal mortality risk for vulnerable newborn types in 15 countries using 125.5 million nationwide birth outcome records, 2000–2020](#)
- [Neonatal mortality risk of large-for-gestational-age and macrosomic live births in 15 countries, including 115.6 million nationwide linked records, 2000–2020](#)

Bubshait, H.M., et al. 2025. **Facilitators and Barriers to Skin-to-Skin Care for Preterm Infants in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: An Integrative Review.** *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 25(6), pp.574-586. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Singh, Y., et al. 2025. **Neonatal SONography Assisted Resuscitation (NeoSONAR): Scoping review of the current literature and future directions.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-9. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Venkateswaran, S., et al. 2025. **Short-Term Outcomes of Early-Term Versus Full-Term and Late-Term Neonates: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *BJOG*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net



Verweij, E.J.T., et al. 2025. **Reporting of management and outcomes in the hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn: a systematic literature review.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-7. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Wei, Z., et al. 2025. **Eat, sleep and console model of care for managing infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome: a meta-analysis of observational studies.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. Available on request: ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net

Neurology

Rondagh, M., et al. 2025. **Brain injury and neurodevelopmental outcome in survivors after spontaneous single fetal demise in monochorionic twins: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Stapleton, I., et al. 2025. **The effect of maternal position on cerebral oxygenation in premature infants during Kangaroo care: a randomised controlled trial.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-6. Available here: [Journal of Perinatology](#)

Respiratory

Gao, L., et al. 2025. **Antenatal corticosteroids and bronchopulmonary dysplasia in very preterm infants.** *JAMA Network Open*, 8(11). Available here: [JAMA Network Open](#)



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You will need an NHS OpenAthens account to access these resources. You can register for one here: <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>

[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](#)

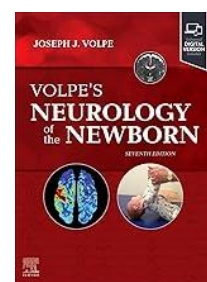
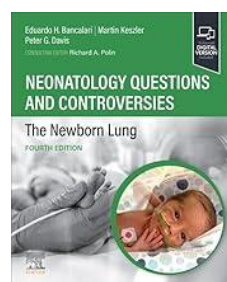
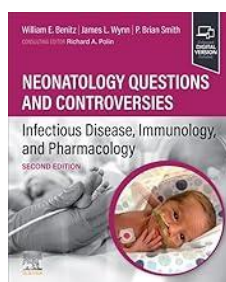
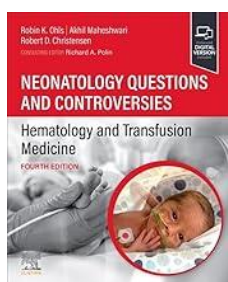
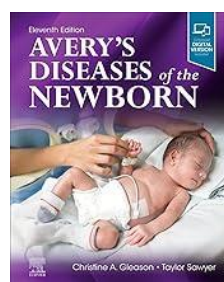
[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Neurology](#)

[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](#)



Please note: Microsoft Copilot has been used to summarise some of the information in this bulletin