



# Maternity & Neonatal Bulletin

January 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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<b>Maternity</b>
<b>UK guidelines</b>
<b>BHIVA</b> <a href="#">Guidelines on the management of HIV in pregnancy and the postpartum period</a>
<b>NICE guidelines (updated in November 2025)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Fetal monitoring in labour</a> (NG229)</li><li>• <a href="#">Intrapartum care</a> (NG235)</li><li>• <a href="#">Suspected sepsis in pregnant or recently pregnant people: recognition, diagnosis and early management</a> (NG255)</li></ul>
<b>RCOG</b> <a href="#">Management of Impacted Fetal Head at Caesarean Birth</a> (Scientific Impact Paper No. 73)
<b>International guidelines</b>
<b>Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)</b> <a href="#">Continuous Labor Support Position Statement</a>
<b>ESC</b> <a href="#">Guidelines for the management of cardiovascular disease and pregnancy</a>
<b>Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada</b> <a href="#">Guideline No. 465: Obstetrical Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASIs) Part II: Long-Term Management and Counselling Regarding Subsequent mode of delivery.</a>
<b>ISUOG Practice Guidelines</b> <a href="#">Point-of-care ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology</a>
<b>WHO, FIGO and International Confederation of Midwives</b> <a href="#">Guidelines for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of postpartum haemorrhage: ending the geography of risk</a>
<b>Cochrane reviews</b>
<a href="#">Calcium supplementation during pregnancy for preventing hypertensive disorders and related problems</a>



## Maternity services

This [survey from the Care Quality Commission](#) looked at the experiences of pregnant women and new mothers who used NHS maternity services in 2025. The survey shows overall improvement in many areas of maternity care over the past year, especially in experiences of communication during antenatal care and involvement in decisions during postnatal care. However, there remain other areas of maternity care where women report poorer experiences, particularly communication during postnatal care.

This [briefing from the House of Commons Library](#) gives an overview of women's experiences of maternity services in England, including disparities in the care received by women from minority ethnic groups. It provides details of investigations into maternity units at individual NHS trusts, the government-commissioned national maternity and neonatal investigation, and policies to improve care. This briefing supplements the Library paper [Quality and safety of maternity care \(England\)](#) which contains information on key policy documents and developments.

The [Maternal Care Bundle \(MCB\) from NHS England](#) sets best practice standards across 5 areas of clinical care, for implementation by NHS providers and commissioners across England. The aim is to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and reduce inequalities in these adverse outcomes.

Since 2015, numerous investigations and reviews have produced hundreds of recommendations on maternity and neonatal services in England, yet consistent safe care remains elusive. This [investigation from the National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation](#) aims to develop national recommendations to achieve reliable, compassionate care across all areas. This paper summarises the reflections of the Chair of the investigation, Baroness Amos, from early engagement with families, staff, community groups and MPs, and outlines the investigation's structure and progress. Further evidence will be gathered through a national call for evidence and site visits to 12 NHS trusts in early 2026.

The [NMC has reported on the progress of its Midwifery Action Plan](#) to help midwives deliver the highest standards of care. This progress report confirms that work is underway for independent midwifery professors to review the NMC's standards of proficiency against recommendations from recent maternity reviews. Work has also begun to map all midwifery curricula being delivered by UK universities against the NMC standards of proficiency.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

This [strategy from the UK Government Home Office](#) sets out the government's vision and actions for meeting its ambition to **halve violence against women and girls (VAWG) in a decade**. It prioritises prevention and tackling the root causes of VAWG, pursues perpetrators, and supports victims and survivors of violence and abuse. It argues that a 'whole of society' approach is needed to tackle VAWG, working across government, public services, and wider society to make lasting, meaningful change.

## Mental health

Ferguson, R. and Taylor, J., 2025. **Women's experiences of borderline personality disorder in the perinatal period**. *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(12), pp.688-697.  
Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)



## Antenatal care

Chen, F., et al. 2025. **Effects of prenatal yoga on birth outcomes in nulliparous women: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

King, O., 2025. **Barriers to discussing gestational weight and eating disorders with perinatal women.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(11), pp.610-617. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Srivastava, M., et al. 2025. **Effect of different Iron-Folic acid (IFA) formulations, doses, and frequencies on pregnancy and neonatal outcomes compared to multiple micronutrients (MMN) among pregnant women: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Wang, T., et al. 2025. **Characteristics, assessment tools, and influencing factors of symptom clusters among pregnant women in first trimester of pregnancy: a scoping review.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), p.1299. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

## Complications

Maternity services can now access the Maternity Outcomes Signal System (MOSS). MOSS is a critical safety signal system developed in response to the findings of the [East Kent Reading the Signals report](#). Two webinars were held to talk through the use and requirements of MOSS prior to its launch at the end of November. These can now be viewed on the [MOSS FuturesNHS site](#). The site also includes demonstration videos and a worked example of a critical safety check which should be carried out by perinatal leadership teams following signals. To register for MOSS access please visit [NHS England applications](#), search for the tool in the A-Z list and complete a form. For further information please see the [MOSS standard operating procedures](#) or contact [england.moss@nhs.net](mailto:england.moss@nhs.net)

Burk, J. and Sweeting, A., 2026. **Glucose monitoring in the management of diabetes in pregnancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Pregnancy*, 2(1), p.e70214. Available here: [Pregnancy](#)

Byrne, Z., et al. 2026. **Maternal sFlt-1/PIGF Ratio to Distinguish Pathological Fetal Growth Restriction from Constitutional Smallness: Systematic Review.** *BJOG*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Capatina, N., et al. 2026. **A Core Outcome Set for Studies of Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy: Results of International e-Delphi and Consensus Processes.** *BJOG*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Mahindra, M.P., et al. 2026. **Risk Factors and Outcomes Associated With Delayed Villous Maturation in Placenta: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Min, Y. and Yao, Q., 2026. **Risk of recurrent preterm premature rupture of membrane in subsequent pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 39(1), p.2610066. Available here: [The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine](#)



Barbera, J.P., et al. 2025. **Idiopathic subglottic stenosis in pregnancy: A systematic review.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Brook, A., et al. 2025. **Free Foetal Haemoglobin in Severe Early-Onset Foetal Growth Restriction: A Prospective Multi-Centre Study.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Bullough, S., et al. 2025. **Placental Growth Factor Led Management of the Small for Gestational Age Fetus: Randomised Controlled Feasibility Study.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Dagne, W.K., et al. 2025. **Modifiable risk factors for anemia in pregnancy: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Deng, B., 2025. **Myocardial performance index in fetuses with small-for-gestational age in pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), pp.1-12. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Kempener, B.M., et al. 2025. **Hemodynamic changes in pregnancies with impaired fetal growth: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*. Available here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Khurmatullina, A.R., et al. 2025. **Global prevalence and risk of gastroesophageal reflux disease symptoms in pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Lawani, L.O., et al. 2025. **Iron deficiency with and without anemia in pregnancy: A scoping review of prevalence and perinatal impact.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)

Nijjar, S., et al. 2025. **Caesarean Scar Ectopic Pregnancy in Early Gestation: A Scoping Review of Definitions and Diagnostic Approach.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Nourollahpour Shiadeh, M., et al. 2025. **Global incidence and risk factors of pregnancy-related stroke: a systematic review and meta-analysis of over 270 million women.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Risso, S., et al. 2025. **Scoping Review on the Consequences of Falls in Women During the Perinatal Period.** *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*. Available here: [JOGNN](#)

Vastarella, M.G., et al. 2025. **Airway problems and changing Mallampati score during pregnancy and labor: a systematic review.** *Journal of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Critical Care*, 5(1), p.80. Available here: [Journal of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Critical Care](#)

Xiong, Z., et al. 2025. **Network meta-analysis: comparative efficacy of diverse aspirin dosages and heparin in mitigating placenta-mediated pregnancy complications.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Zhou, Q. and Fu, K., 2025. **Laparoscopy versus laparotomy for the treatment of heterotopic pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)



## Labour & birth

Chandrahara, E., et al. 2026. **Implementation of physiological interpretation of fetal heart rate changes: from scientific principles to frontline practice.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 39(1). Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Demetri, A., et al. 2026. **What Should Be Discussed When Considering a Vaginal Birth? A Delphi Consensus Study.** *BJOG*, 133(3), pp.520-531. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Arabzadeh, H., et al. 2025. **An umbrella review of maternal pre-pregnancy characteristics and prior cesarean section as risk factors for stillbirth.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Chandrahara, E., et al. 2025. **Implementation of a scientific approach to intrapartum care: the Emergency Caesarean Section-Decision Optimising Tool (EC-DOT) to eliminate avoidable harm to mothers and babies.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 38(1), p.2576482. Available here: [The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine](#)

Christiansen, E.L.E.S., Krogh, L.Q. and Glavind, J., 2025. **Definitions of failed induction of labor in the literature: a systematic review.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Kebede, T.N., et al. 2025. **Effectiveness of an evidence-based intervention bundle in reducing post-caesarean delivery surgical site infections: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

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](#)

Odeh, M., et al. 2025. **Previaible PROM in twins: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)

Oltean, I.I., et al. 2025. **Maternal morbidity following a trial of labor after cesarean birth: A scoping review of operative vaginal birth compared with cesarean birth in the second stage of labor.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available from [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)

Parris, D., et al. 2025. **Characterising Forces Applied During the Simulated Management of Impacted Fetal Head: Pre-Clinical Methods Study.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Pettinger, K., et al. 2025. **Shortened Courses of Antenatal Steroids in Preterm Births: An Observational Study.** *BJOG*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Regev-Sadeh, S., et al. 2025. **Efficacy of energy-based devices on episiotomy pain and healing: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)

Shoshan, D. and Hardie, K., 2025. Women's perceptions of intrapartum perineal





care. *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(12), pp.698-705.

Tan, S.Y., et al. 2025. **Oral misoprostol (PGE1) vs vaginal dinoprostone (PGE2) for labor induction: individual participant data meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*. Available here: [Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology](#)

Tang, X., et al. 2025. **Effectiveness of preoperative vaginal preparation in reducing post-operative infection in patients who underwent emergency cesarean delivery: A systemic review and meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Tome, M., et al. 2025. **Revisiting the Value of Admission Cardiotocography in Term Pregnancies: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *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 on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

### Miscarriage and stillbirth

Avagliano, L., et al. 2025. **Prevention of stillbirths associated with umbilical cord abnormalities: A clinico-pathological overview.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)

MacGregor, B., et al. 2025. **Interventions to Improve Outcomes After Pregnancy Loss: A Systematic Review.** *BJOG*. Available here: [BJOG](#)

Robinson, K., et al. 2025. **Midwifery Continuity of Care in a Subsequent Pregnancy After Perinatal Loss: A Scoping Review of Qualitative Evidence.** *BJOG*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

### Postnatal care

This [toolkit from NHS England](#) supports integrated care boards (ICBs), their place-based partners, health and care providers to work with service users and professionals to improve the postnatal care experience and both short and long-term maternal and infant health. It shows ICB leaders what an effective, collaborative approach looks like and recommends evidence-based actions for ICBs and providers to consider taking.

Man, R., et al. 2026. **Healing-assessment tools for perineal and cesarean section wounds in postpartum women: A scoping review.** *Acta obstetrica et gynecologica Scandinavica*, 105(1), pp.18-29. Available from [Acta obstetrica et gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

### Infant feeding

Camacho, E.M. and Reyes, K.A., 2025. **Evidence for incentive-based strategies to promote breastfeeding: a systematic literature review of randomised controlled trials.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), p.1246. Available from [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

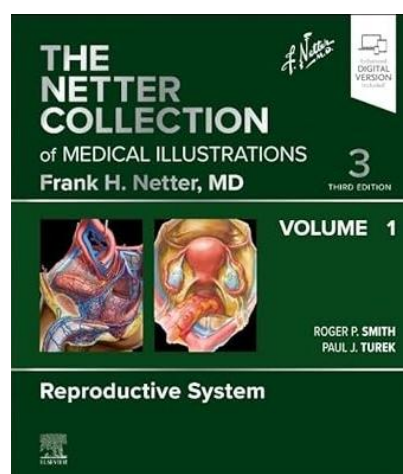
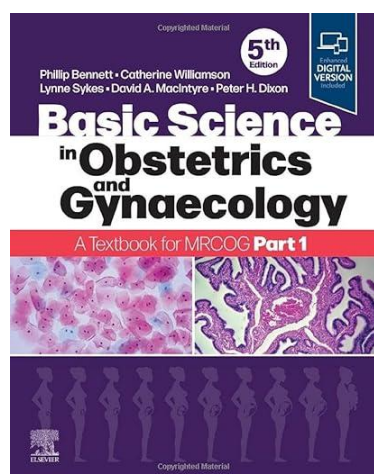


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[Basic Science in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: A Textbook for MRCOG Part 1](#)

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





## Neonatal

Dang, D., et al. 2026. **Effect of enteral supplementation of DHA with or without ARA in preterm infants: a meta-analysis.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(1), pp.F27-F33. Available here: [ADC Fetal and Neonatal](#)

Patel, N., et al. 2026. **Respiratory function monitoring for neonatal resuscitation: a narrative review.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, 111(1), pp.F6-F12. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

De Souza, A.T.B., et al. 2025. **Effect of glucose on pain relief during invasive procedures in premature infants: Systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-11. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Gong, Z., He, J. and Zhang, L., 2025. **The effects of short-and long-duration Kangaroo Mother Care and conventional care on improving weight gain in low birth weight infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC pediatrics*, 25(1), p.918. Available here: [BMC Pediatrics](#)

Handady, G., et al. 2025. **The psychological effects of preterm birth on postnatal mothers: a scoping review.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Available here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Khedkar, P., et al. 2025. **Minimisation of blood sampling losses in preterm neonates: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal*. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Lawrence, N.R., et al. 2026. **Longitudinal modelling of growth in neonates exposed to antenatal steroids to quantify associations with final height: a cohort study.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 111(1), pp.56-61. Available here: [Archives of Disease in Childhood](#)

Maldonado, B.N., et al. 2025. **Term neonatal admissions for hypoglycaemia in England and Wales, 2012–2020: a population-based study using the National Neonatal Research Database.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal*. Available here: [ADC Fetal and Neonatal](#)

Marlow, N., et al. 2025. **Outcomes of extremely preterm infants who participated in a randomised trial of dopamine for treatment of hypotension (the HIP trial) at 2 years corrected age.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal*. Available here: [ADC Fetal and Neonatal](#)

Naghdi, S., et al. 2025. **Cost-consequence analysis of early full milk feeding versus gradual feeding with intravenous support in preterm infants: results from the FEED1 trial.** *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal*. Available here: [ADC Fetal and Neonatal](#)

Roehr, C.C., et al. 2025. **Video versus direct laryngoscopy for urgent tracheal intubation in neonates: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Zeitschrift für Geburtshilfe und Neonatologie*, 229(03), pp.KV-102. Available on request: [ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

Shahid, S., Acosta-Reyes, J. and Florez, I.D., 2025. **Sucrose or glucose compared to breast milk for pain control in preterm infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Journal of Perinatology*, pp.1-11. 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](mailto:ulth.nhslincslibrary.request@nhs.net)

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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](#)

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

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

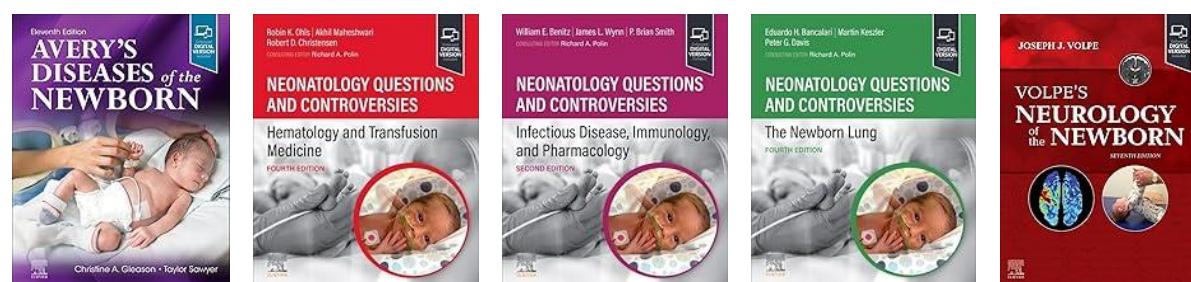
[Neonatology Questions and Controversies: Neurology](#)

[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](#)



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