



Maternity & Neonatal Bulletin

October 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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Black History Month 2025 events across NHS Lincolnshire

Monday 13th October 12-1pm

Black and Asian Maternal Health Event from the Black and Asian Maternal Health Group

[Join the session on Teams here](#)

Wednesday 15th October 12-1pm

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day Event with Dr Sarah El-Khatim, Specialty Doctor, O&G

[Join the session on Teams here](#)

Maternity

UK guidelines

RCOG: [Correction to Care of Late Intrauterine Fetal Death and Stillbirth Green-Top Guideline No. 55](#)

RCOG: [Statement on paracetamol in pregnancy](#)

RCOG: [Pregnancy and breast cancer](#)

International guidelines

The Global Consensus Group for Pregnancy and IBD: [Global consensus statement on the management of pregnancy in inflammatory bowel disease](#)

Cochrane reviews

[Vitamin D supplementation in pregnant or breastfeeding women or young children for preventing asthma](#)

Reports

The [2025 MBRRACE-UK report](#) looks at the care of 643 women who died during or up to one year after pregnancy in the UK and Ireland. Of these women, 583 (91%) faced multiple interrelated challenges including social service involvement, domestic abuse and deprivation.



Maternity services

This [report from the RCOG](#) combines case studies from the **Green Maternity Challenge** with lived experience insights and carbon modelling to identify eight initial priorities for sustainable maternity care and a clear set of evidence-based recommendations. These recommendations are intended to help maternity teams and leaders to drive down health-related emissions from the front line, improve outcomes and experience for women, birthing people and their families, and reduce costs.

On 23 June 2025 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced a rapid, national, independent investigation into NHS maternity and neonatal services in England. Baroness Amos was appointed as chair on 14 August 2025. The investigation will look at individual services across the country alongside reviewing the maternity and neonatal system, bringing together the findings of past reviews into one clear national set of actions to ensure every woman and baby receives safe, high-quality and compassionate care. This [guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care sets out the terms of reference for the investigation](#). Following the conclusion of the investigation Baroness Amos will deliver one clear set of national recommendations, with interim recommendations delivered in December 2025.

The [National Maternity and Perinatal Audit \(NMPA\)](#) is a large-scale audit of NHS maternity services across England, Scotland and Wales. The NMPA uses information routinely collected as part of maternity care, combined with information collected when women and birthing people and their babies are admitted to hospital. The audit produces outputs that can be used by commissioners and providers of maternity services, as well as to support women and birthing people and their families to use the data within their decision making.

Mackintosh, N., et al. 2025. **Working to support cultures of safety in maternity and neonatal services: a qualitative interview study with service leaders and unit/safety leads.** *Midwifery*, p.104461. Available in full here: [Midwifery](#)

McIntyre, G., et al. 2025. **Patient and family experiences of healthcare safety investigations: a meta-synthesis.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(9), pp.500-507. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Workforce & education

Morris, K., 2025. **How research and evidence-based practice education affect students' knowledge and attitudes.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(8), pp.446-456. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Saxton, O., 2025. **Midwives as scholars and leaders: being an advocate when women choose care outside of guidance.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(9), pp.518-524. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Ward, R., 2025. **Maternity care and the perception of risk: the impact on midwifery's professional boundaries.** *British Journal of Midwifery*, 33(8), pp.457-462. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net



Equality, diversity and inclusion

This [report from the Health and Social Care Committee finds that Black women in England face disproportionately poor outcomes in maternity care](#), shaped by systemic failings in leadership, training, data collection and accountability. The report acknowledges that failings in care for Black women are taking place in the context of a maternity system that is failing women more broadly, with the NHS in England having paid £27.4 billion in maternity negligence since 2019, estimated at a figure greater than the total maternity budget for the same period.

This [report from The Motherhood Group centres on the lived experiences of Black mothers](#) and highlights systemic barriers to quality, affordable mental healthcare. It shines a light on the urgent need for safe spaces, culturally competent peer support, digital access, and community-driven, anti-racist solutions. The report was supported by the Maternal Mental Health Alliance and the Centre for Mental Health.

Robins, A.J., et al. 2025. **Navigating weight stigma: An integrative review of midwives' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about caring for larger-bodied women.** *Midwifery*, p.104444. Available in full here: [Midwifery](#)

Sorrenti, S., et al. 2025. **Interventions to Address Disparities in Perinatal Outcomes by Ethnicity: A Systematic Review.** *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, pp.1–15. Available in full here: [BJOG](#)

Mental health

This [report from the Institute of Health Visiting](#) sets out the findings of a mixed-methods evaluation of the iHV's **Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Champions Training Programme**. Results suggest that the programme is a credible, effective and scalable approach to workforce development and system transformation.

Pisavadia, K., et al. 2025. **Healthcare use and costs of perinatal anxiety: a UK NHS perspective.** *BMC Health Services Research*, 25(1), p.1183. Available in full here: [BMC Health Services Research](#)

Zitoun, N.M., et al. 2025. **Associations between PTSD and pregnancy outcomes: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC pregnancy and childbirth*, 25(1), p.802. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Antenatal care

Ara, R. et al. 2025 **Antenatal CMV screening, testing, and treatment strategies in Europe: a 2024 survey.** *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, 38(1). Available in full here: [The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine](#)

de Aquino, A.C.Q., et al. 2025. **Non-pharmacologic therapies for treating sexual dysfunction during pregnancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available in full here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)



Coyne, J. and Frankland, F., 2025. **A smokefree pregnancy programme.** British Journal of Midwifery, 33(8), pp.466-467. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Murphy, V.E., et al. 2025. **Vitamin A, C and/or E Intake During Pregnancy and Offspring Respiratory Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, 38(4), p.e70086. Available in full here: [Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

Pharmacology

Moradi, M., et al. 2025. **Intrapartum Antibiotic Prophylaxis and Child Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies.** BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Available in full here: [BJOG](#)

Complications

Alemayehu, E., et al. 2025. **Fibrinogen and D-dimer protein levels in patients with preeclampsia: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 25(1), p.822. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Ganeshamoorthy, A., et al. 2025. **Antihypertensive therapy for pregnancy hypertension and implications for fetal and neonatal heart rate monitoring: A systematic review of randomized trials and observational studies.** Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica. Available in full here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Hollins Martin, C.J. and Norris, G., 2025. **The midwife's role in supporting pregnant women who are alcohol dependent.** British Journal of Midwifery, 33(9), pp.508-516. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Hu, S., et al. 2025. **Association of antidepressant use during pregnancy and pregnancy-induced hypertension: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 25(1), p.884. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

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

Jones, N.W., et al. 2025. **Glycaemic control in labour with diabetes: GILD, a scoping study.** Health Technology Assessment, 29(41), p.1. Available in full here: [Health Technology Assessment](#)

Khalili, P., et al. 2025. **The role of statins during pregnancy on maternal risk of preeclampsia: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 25(1), p.841. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Mahindra, M.P., et al. 2025. **Gestational reactive hypoglycaemia and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** BMC Pregnancy and



Childbirth, 25(1), p.888. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Sapantzoglou, I., et al. 2025. **Added value of ophthalmic artery Doppler in prediction of pre-eclampsia: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*. Available in full here: [Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology](#)

Labour & birth

Emergency C-sections are more likely among certain ethnic groups, with [recent analysis from the Nuffield Trust](#) revealing concerning disparities that suggest systemic issues in maternity care.

Chen, A., et al. 2025. **Acupuncture for induction of labor in uncomplicated term pregnancies and the role of the acupoint selection: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*. Available in full here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Deusa-López, P., et al. 2025. **Umbrella review and meta-analysis of the effect of delayed and immediate pushing in the second stage of labor on neonatal outcomes.** *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, pp.1-15. Available in full here: [Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

Dominoni, M., et al. 2025. **Single-versus double-layer uterine closure at the time of cesarean delivery and risk of uterine scar niche: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials.** *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, pp.1-12. Available in full here: [Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

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*, 1–7. Available in full here: [BJOG](#)

Tan, J.Y., et al. 2025. **What do we know about midwife-woman interactions during vaginal childbirth: a scoping review and thematic analysis.** *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 25(1), p.882. Available in full here: [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)

Postnatal care

Man, R., et al. 2025. **Prognostic factors for wound complications after childbirth-related perineal trauma: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Acta obstetrica et gynecologica Scandinavica*. Available in full here: [Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica](#)

Mooren, E.S., et al. 2025. **Prediction Models for Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASIS): A Systematic Review and Critical Appraisal.** *BJOG*. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Ramasauskaite, D., et al. 2025. **FIGO call to action: Multisectoral approach to postpartum hemorrhage.** *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. Available in full here: [International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#)



Infant feeding

Heerfordt, I.M., et al. 2025. **EudraVigilance insights: Suspected adverse drug reactions in infants through breastfeeding.** British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology. Available in full here: [British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology](#)

Neonatal

Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) programme

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/newborn-infant-physical-examination-nipe-programme/>

The NHS Newborn and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) Screening Programme's eLearning resources have been updated following a change to national NIPE standards and guidance (published April 2024). The new resources are available now for healthcare clinicians who undertake NIPE screening (or are involved in the NIPE screening pathway) in the NHS in England.

General

Du, F., et al. 2025. **Neonatal encephalopathy due to birth asphyxia and trauma: global trends and disparities.** Frontiers in Public Health, 13, p.1583572. Available in full here: [Frontiers in Public Health](#)

Feeding

Naboni, C., et al. 2025. **Enhancing the feeding journey of the preterm infant in the NICU: the STAmmi VICINO pathway as a model of integrated and individualized neurodevelopmental care.** Frontiers in Public Health, 13, p.1597256. Available in full here: [Frontiers in Public Health](#)

Infection

Buttera, M., et al. 2025. **The impact of central line-specific dwell-times for neonatal central line associated bloodstream infections.** Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control, 14(1), pp.1-10. Available in full here: [Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control](#)

Tianrui, Y., et al. 2025. **Establishment of a risk prediction model for hydrocephalus complicated by neonatal bacterial meningitis.** BMC Infectious Diseases, 25, p.1134. Available in full here: [BMC Infectious Diseases](#)

Zhang, X., et al. 2025. **A Meta-Analysis of the Oxidative and Inflammatory Reactions to the Type and Duration of Phototherapy in Neonates With Jaundice.** Photodermatology, Photoimmunology & Photomedicine, 41(6), p.e70056. Available in full here: [Photodermatology, Photoimmunology & Photomedicine](#)

Orthopaedics

Gencer, B., et al. 2025. **Predicting fracture occurrence and localization on neonatal clavicle fractures: A multi-centric analysis.** Pediatrics International, 67(1), p.e70207. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net



Respiratory

Ströbele, S., et al. 2025. **Duration of apnoea before start of backup ventilation during nCPAP in extremely preterm infants and time spent within the SpO2 target: a randomised cross-over study.** Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

Lavizzari, A., et al. 2025. **Management of apnoea in extremely preterm infants—a European Survey.** *Neonatology*. Available in full here: [Neonatology](#)

Zannin, E., et al. 2025. **Impact of Duration of Nasal High Flow Therapy on Respiratory Outcomes in Very Preterm Infants: A Propensity Score Analysis.** *Pediatric Pulmonology*, 60(9), p.e71313. Available in full on request: lesley.firth@nhs.net

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