



Midwifery Bulletin

August 2023

The aim of this monthly current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent news, guidelines, reports and research concerning all aspects of Midwifery.

If you would like to request any of the research articles included in this bulletin, or to be put onto the bulletin's distribution list, please contact:

Library and Knowledge Services at Pilgrim Hospital

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News

Woman receives sister's womb in first UK transplant

Surgeons in Oxford have carried out the [first womb transplant in the UK](#). You can read the published case report on this ground-breaking surgery here: [BJOG](#)

Maternity services

England: State of maternity services

This [report from the Royal College of Midwives](#) highlights the lack of investment in maternity services and the impact of staffing shortages on women. It also describes how more complex needs, including rising levels of obesity in pregnancy and increases in the number of older women having babies, are increasing demands on maternity services.

Nursing and midwifery national job profile review - evidence report.

The aim of [this review from the NHS Staff Council's Job Evaluation Group](#) is to ensure that job profiles reflect current nursing and midwifery practice and are fit for purpose in all health and care settings.

Maternity workforce

Experiences of nurses and midwives with disabilities: A scoping review.

Journal of Advanced Nursing, 2023

The aim of this Australian review is to identify the extent and type of evidence exploring the workplace experiences of nurses and midwives with disabilities.

What makes an excellent labour ward co-ordinator? Insights from the multidisciplinary team

British Journal of Midwifery, 2023, Vol. 31, No. 8 pp. 460-467

This study aimed to explore the labour ward co-ordinator's skills and attributes and their impact on multidisciplinary team working.



Maternal healthcare inequalities

Adverse childhood experiences, the risk of pregnancy complications and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMJ open, Vol. 13, No. 8

The results of this review suggest that exposure to ACEs increases the risk of pregnancy complications and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Preventive strategies, screening and trauma-informed care need to be examined to improve maternal and child health.

Black women around the world have worse pregnancy outcomes

This is a [summary from NIHR Evidence](#) of a study which analysed more than 2 million pregnancies and found that babies born to Black women worldwide had poorer outcomes (such as baby death and stillbirth) than White women. You can read the original study here: [The Lancet](#).

The Birth Charter for women with involvement from children's social care

This [charter from Birth Companions](#) sets out how services and systems in England should support all women involved with children's social care from conception to their child's second birthday. It outlines 14 principles to help protect women's rights to safe, fair and compassionate care, and [call for a national health and social care pathway](#) for pregnant women and mothers of infants who are subject to pre-birth or parenting assessment, or child protection proceedings.

Maternal mental health

Maternal mental health: A briefing for integrated care systems

This [briefing from the Maternal Mental Health Alliance](#) suggests ten key areas in need of immediate action: universal services; NHS talking therapies; specialist perinatal mental health services; inpatient services; maternal mental health services; voluntary and community sector support; family hubs; baby loss support; tackling stigma; and reducing loneliness and isolation.

Strengthening perinatal mental health: a roadmap to the right support at the right time

This [roadmap from the Royal College of Midwives](#) aims to ensure women receive the support they need and to improve perinatal mental health care in the UK.

Maternal physical health

Key changes in the cardiovascular system during uncomplicated pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period: an overview

British Journal of Cardiac Nursing, Vol. 18, No. 7, pp. 1-4

Clare Maxwell and colleagues provide an overview of the typical physiological changes that occur during and after pregnancy, and how these changes can lead to or exacerbate cardiovascular pathologies.



Labour

Midwives' practice of maternal positions throughout active second stage labour: an integrative review

British Journal of Midwifery, Vol. 31, No. 8, pp. 468-476

This study aimed to explore midwives' practice of maternal positions throughout the active phase of second stage labour

Obstetric anal sphincter injuries: are defunctioning colostomies required?

British Journal of Midwifery, Vol. 31, No. 8, pp. 428-434

This article describes the purpose and operative steps of colostomy formation and reviews current published evidence of outcomes in those with colostomy formation for obstetric anal sphincter injury.

Supporting birth companions for women in labor, the views and experiences of birth companions, women and midwives: A mixed methods systematic review.

Birth, Online ahead of print

Birth companions can have a positive effect on women's experiences in labor. However, companions can feel unprepared and need professional guidance to help them feel involved and provide effective support.

Neonatal care

Calculation Skills: Neonatal resuscitation

Journal of Prescribing Practice, Vol. 5, No. 7, pp. 280-281

Neonatal resuscitation is a rapid response and high-pressure situation. Knowledge of the sequence of potential medications, the appropriate dosages and frequency, and routes of administration, is essential. ***The answers to the quiz can be found on p. 306.***

Gut–liver axis and the impact of probiotics on neonatal jaundice symptoms: a review

Gastrointestinal Nursing, Vol. 21, No. S6, pp. S10-S14

Neonatal jaundice, which can affect up to 60% of term and 80% of preterm babies, can have a serious detrimental effect on their health.

NHS quality improvement programme reduces the risk of cerebral palsy in newborns

This is a summary from [NIHR Evidence on the PreCePT quality improvement project](#). The project aimed specifically to increase the uptake of magnesium sulphate among mothers who go into labour less than 30 weeks into their pregnancy. You can read the original study here [ADC Fetal & Neonatal](#).

Review of neonatal assessment and practice in Black, Asian, and minority ethnic newborns: Exploring the Apgar score, the detection of cyanosis, and jaundice

A new [review from the NHS Race and Health Observatory](#) outlines challenges in neonatal care for Black, Asian and minority ethnic babies, alongside clear recommendations on tackling them.

The proportions of term or late preterm births after exposure to early antenatal



corticosteroids, and outcomes: systematic review and meta-analysis of 1.6 million infants.

BMJ, Vol. 382

This systematic review found that about 40% of infants exposed to early antenatal corticosteroids were born at term, with associated adverse short term and long term outcomes (low or very low certainty), highlighting the need for caution when considering antenatal corticosteroids.

Pregnancy and baby loss

The Independent Pregnancy Loss Review: Care and support when baby loss occurs before 24 weeks gestation

This [review from the Pregnancy Loss Review Group](#) looks at options to improve NHS gynaecology and maternity care practice for parents who experience a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy or termination for medical reasons. You can also read the [Government response](#) to the Independent Pregnancy Loss Review

Recurrent miscarriage: Green-top guideline no. 17

This [guideline from the Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology](#) provides comprehensive information on risk factors, recommended investigations and treatments for recurrent first trimester and one or more second trimester miscarriages.

Library Services

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Information skills training: We can provide training on how to search healthcare databases and resources as well as showing you how to appraise the information that you find: <https://www.nhslinclslibrary.uk/training/>

Online Resources

BMJ Best Practice is a clinical decision support tool that provides step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention of a wide variety of conditions:

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com>

ClinicalKey is a database which supports healthcare professionals by providing access to the latest evidence across specialties: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/>

Royal Marsden Manual is an online textbook of evidence based clinical procedures related to every aspect of care from clinical nursing and midwifery experts:

<https://www.rmmonline.co.uk/>