

Current awareness for Midwifery

Recent guidelines, reports and articles

August 2021

Guidelines

The following guideline(s) maybe of interest:

[Antenatal care.](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs22>

[This quality standard covers care for healthy women and their babies during pregnancy (up to 42 weeks). It covers routine antenatal care in primary, community and hospital settings. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement. In August 2021, changes were made to align this quality standard with the updated NICE guideline on antenatal care.]

Freely available online

[Antenatal care.](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng201>

[This guideline covers the routine antenatal care that women and their babies should receive. It aims to ensure that pregnant women are offered regular check-ups, information and support. NICE have also published a guideline on postnatal care, which covers the topics of emotional attachment and baby feeding. The guideline uses the terms 'woman' or 'mother' throughout. These should be taken to include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant.]

Freely available online

[Inducing labour.](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs60>

[This quality standard covers the induction of labour in hospital outpatient or inpatient settings. It includes advice and care for pregnant women who are considering or having induction of labour. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement. In August 2021, changes were made to align this quality standard with the updated NICE guideline on antenatal care.]

Freely available online

[Management of coexisting conditions in the context of COVID-19.](#)

BMJ Best Practice; 2021.

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000190>

[Guidelines recommend measures to manage acute and chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic: updated.]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password

[Supporting mental healthcare in a maternity and neonatal setting: good practice guide and case studies.](#)

NHS England; 2021.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/supporting-mental-healthcare-in-a-maternity-and-neonatal-setting-good->

[practice-guide-and-case-studies/](#)

[This guide is for commissioners and staff involved in maternity and neonatal care. It describes the underpinning principles of and good practice for supporting good mental health and psychological wellbeing in maternity and neonatal settings. It also considers the role of specialist maternal mental health services (MMHS) in supporting this function.]

Freely available online

Reports

The following report(s) may be of interest:

[MBRRACE-UK: Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care rapid report: Learning from SARS-CoV-2-related and associated maternal deaths in the UK March-May 2020.](#)

MBRRACE-UK; 2021.

<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk/reports>

[Findings from the new MBRRACE-UK 2021 rapid report suggest that there needs to be wider awareness of how best to treat pregnant and postnatal women with COVID-19.]

Freely available online

[Progress towards the national ambition to reduce baby loss.](#)

House of Commons Library; 2021.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2021-0128/>

[House of Commons Library research briefing: a summary of policies to reduce baby loss to support a debate in Westminster Hall on 20 July 2021.]

Freely available online

[Schedules for home visits in the early postpartum period.](#)

Yonemoto N. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2021;7:CD009326.

[OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of this review is to assess the effects of different home-visiting schedules on maternal and newborn mortality during the early postpartum period. The review focuses on the frequency of home visits (how many home visits in total), the timing (when visits started, e.g. within 48 hours of the birth), duration (when visits ended), intensity (how many visits per week), and different types of home-visiting interventions.]

[Women with kidney disease can be given a personal risk assessment for pregnancy, following new research.](#)

NIHR Evidence; 2021.

<https://evidence.nihr.ac.uk/alert/women-kidney-disease-given-risk-assessment-pregnancy/>

[This is the largest and most reliable study to date into the outcomes for mothers and babies in advanced kidney disease. Converting the decline in kidney function during pregnancy into its equivalent when not pregnant is a new approach. It gives women and their doctors a clear indication of the effect of pregnancy on kidney function.]

Freely available online

Articles

The following articles maybe of interest:

[A brief overview of fetal alcohol syndrome for health professionals.](#)

Kruithof P. *British Journal of Nursing* 2021;30(15):890-893.

[Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are caused by prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). They cause epigenetic changes, permanent neurodevelopmental deficits, and anomalies in growth and facial structure. This article enforces the need for health and social care professionals to have a greater understanding and awareness of how FAS and FASD may impact on the individual, the family and the community, to enable them to provide the most effective care possible.]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

[Anxiety and depression during pregnancy in the era of COVID-19.](#)

Khamees R. *Journal of Perinatal Medicine* 2021;49(6):674-677.

[The study included 48 (40%) nulliparous and 72 (60%) multiparous women. COVID-19 affected the mental health of

pregnant women to a great extent. Care should be directed to measures that would decrease the impact of this pandemic on vulnerable populations.]

Freely available online

Association of abnormal fetal echocardiography with some obstetric records.

Najafian M. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):448–452.

[The study aimed to evaluate the history of some obstetrical records of pregnant women who were referred for fetal echocardiography for any reason. This was a retrospective study on 1772 documents of referred pregnant women, which was conducted in Narges diagnostic clinic staff (Ahvaz city, Iran) from 2017-2020. In this study, all document data of pregnant women who referred for fetal echocardiography for any reason have been reviewed.]

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Changing the tide: influencing factors for midwives on vaginal breech birth skill acquisition.

Furtado V. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):454–462.

[Breech presentation at term occurs in 3%–5% of pregnancies. Many midwives are not skilled in vaginal breech births which affects the safety of vaginal breech birth. This research study begins to explore the influencing factors for skill attainment and potential areas for change to enhance education and competence. This was a small exploratory qualitative study that used a focus group with four participants for data collection.]

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Gender disappointment.

Winter G. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):475.

[The author explains the meaning of gender disappointment and why midwives need to be aware of it. In 1984, Germaine Greer observed of childbirth that it ‘has been transformed from an awesome personal and social event into a medical phenomenon’ (Greer, 1984). It is arguable that the transformation identified by Greer has been mediated by technological advances and the ethical dilemmas that can arise from their use.]

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How do power and hierarchy influence staff safety in maternity services?

Elliott-Mainwaring H. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):430–439.

[There are considerable tensions for healthcare staff between their employee allegiance and contracts, patient safety, and their responsibilities to codes of conduct within professional registration, and the NHS Constitution. The research aim was to identify how power and hierarchy influence staff safety in maternity services and this was achieved by reviewing research papers concerned with personal narratives of staff experiences and perspectives of employment in their profession.]

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Learning throughout the storm.

Nash K. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):426–428.

[Newly qualified midwives highlight the lessons they learnt during their final year of training during the global pandemic. The devastation and distress caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic has been immeasurable. Its impact on an already overstretched and under-resourced NHS and its staff is unprecedented. Health and care staff have found themselves working tirelessly under increasing pressure to meet the changing requirements for healthcare delivery and education amidst the impact of COVID-19.]

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Neonatal outcomes after neuraminidase inhibitor use during pregnancy: a meta-analysis of cohort studies.

Lian J. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 2021;:doi.org/10.1111/bcp.15033.

[Exposure to neuraminidase-inhibitor medication during pregnancy does not appear to be associated with adverse neonatal outcomes. We recommend further studies to investigate this association, which will help clinicians determine whether to prescribe a neuraminidase inhibitor during pregnancy.]

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Pain and pleasure in the birthing room: understanding the phenomenon of orgasmic birth.

Crossing P. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):464–471.

[The significance of the physiological connection between sexuality and birth is widely overlooked and understated within maternity care. Despite some researchers acknowledging the possibility of orgasmic birth, most literature on

the topic is anecdotal. Qualitative research surrounding women who report having ecstatic and orgasmic births demonstrates the positive effect engaging with the psychosexual elements of birth has on the maternal birthing experience.]

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[Pregnancy in a pandemic: generalised anxiety disorder and health anxiety prevalence.](#)

Rathbone A. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(8):430–439.

[Anxieties can be typical to pregnancy. At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, pregnant women were classified as at risk and advised to shield. This may have caused increased generalised anxiety disorder and health anxiety across the demographic. This study aimed to explore current, actual and perceived levels of generalised anxiety disorder and health anxiety in pregnant women during the COVID-19 outbreak.]

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[Realist evaluation of Schwartz rounds® for enhancing the delivery of compassionate healthcare: understanding how they work, for whom, and in what contexts.](#)

Maben J. *BMC Health Services Research* 2021;21(1):709.

[Where optimally implemented, Rounds provide staff with a safe, reflective and confidential space to talk and support one another, the consequences of which include increased empathy and compassion for colleagues and patients, and positive changes to practice.]

[The rise of tele-mental health in perinatal settings.](#)

Geller P A. *Seminars in Perinatology* 2021;45(5):151431.

[We discuss the use of tele-mental health in settings serving expectant parents in fetal care centers and parents with children receiving treatment in neonatal intensive care units within a pediatric institution. Our emphasis is on the dramatic rise of tele-mental health service delivery for this population in the wake of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.]

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