

Current awareness for Midwifery

Recent guidelines, reports and articles

September 2020

Reports

The following report(s) may be of interest:

[Maternal, Newborn and Infant Programme: learning from SARS-CoV-2-related and associated maternal deaths in the UK.](#)

Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP); 2020.

<https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/maternal-newborn-and-infant-programme-learning-from-sars-cov-2-related-and-associated-maternal-deaths-in-the-uk/#.X2SfpNR7m71>

[In response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic the MBRRACE-UK team instituted rapid notification of maternal deaths associated with SARS-CoV-2, following which notifications of SARS-CoV-2-associated maternal deaths were received in early April 2020. This rapid report aims to identify lessons learned to guide future care and pathway changes in the context of infection transmission and the need for public health and NHS service measures to prevent infection.]

Available with free registration

[Maternity services in smaller hospitals: a call to action.](#)

Nuffield Trust; 2020.

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/maternity-services-in-smaller-hospitals-a-call-to-action>

[In rural and remote areas, the closure of maternity units can mean longer transfer times and poorer support for obstetric emergencies, but the viability of smaller maternity units is often questioned. This working paper discusses the issues affecting the delivery of safe and effective maternity services and serves as a call to action for areas of improvement that are within the control of employers and national organisations.]

Freely available online

[NMC Strategy 2020-2025.](#)

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC); 2020.

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/our-strategy/>

[We have postponed a number of programmes of work outlined in our strategy, with a view to revisiting them later in the year. Our new strategy has already helped us navigate this unfolding situation. The three core pillars – regulate, support and influence - that will guide us over the next five years have enabled us to adapt our approach and be confident in our decision making in response to this pandemic.]

Freely available online

Consultation

[Early years healthy development review: call for evidence.](#)

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-healthy-development-review-call-for-evidence>

[Share your evidence to help inform a new review into improving health and development outcomes of babies and young children in England. This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 16 October 2020.]

Freely available online

Articles

The following articles maybe of interest:

[Carbohydrate supplementation of human milk to promote growth in preterm infants.](#)

Amissah EA. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020;9:CD000280.

[OBJECTIVES: To determine whether human milk supplemented with carbohydrate compared with unsupplemented human milk fed to preterm infants improves growth, body composition, and cardio-metabolic and neurodevelopmental outcomes without significant adverse effects.]

Freely available online

[Changes in the management of iron in pregnancy.](#)

Flynn A. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):636–638.

[There is now a growing body of evidence which suggests that proactively preventing the progression from low iron to treating iron deficiency in pregnancy with scientifically modern supplements might offer the best course of action, rather than traditional oral iron supplements or treating with high-dose iron medicines later. Despite the huge importance of iron for human health, it is the most common nutritional deficiency in the world (World Health Organization, 2008).]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

[Complementary and alternative therapies for post-caesarean pain.](#)

Zimpel SA. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020;9:CD011216.

[BACKGROUND: Pain after caesarean sections (CS) can affect the well-being of the mother and her ability with her newborn. Conventional pain-relieving strategies are often underused because of concerns about the adverse maternal and neonatal effects. Complementary alternative therapies (CAM) may offer an alternative for post-CS pain.

OBJECTIVES: To assess the effects of CAM for post-caesarean pain.] *Freely available online*

[Fat supplementation of human milk for promoting growth in preterm infants.](#)

Amissah EA. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020;8:CD000341.

[OBJECTIVES: To determine whether supplementation of human milk with fat compared with unsupplemented human milk fed to preterm infants improves growth, body composition, cardio-metabolic, and neurodevelopmental outcomes without significant adverse effects.] *Freely available online*

[Feasibility of use of the anxiety thermometer in antenatal services.](#)

Richens Y. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(8):468–474.

[Of the 102 women approached, 101 (99%) completed the anxiety thermometer (AnxT). Almost two-thirds rated their current anxiety as four or above out of a maximum of 10. The most frequently reported concern was health of baby, followed by fears and worries, tiredness, and sleep problems. The high participation rate suggests that the AnxT can be developed to screen anxiety and elicit perinatal and related concerns to facilitate consultation and appropriate triaging.]

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[Home versus inpatient induction of labour for improving birth outcomes.](#)

Alfirevic Z. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020;8:CD007372.

[OBJECTIVES: To assess the effects on neonatal and maternal outcomes of third trimester home induction of labour compared with inpatient induction using the same method of induction.] *Freely available online*

[How has the coronavirus pandemic influenced rates of depressive symptoms in pregnant women?](#)

The Mental Elf; 2020.

<https://www.nationalelfservice.net/populations-and-settings/perinatal-mental-health/coronavirus-pandemic-perinatal-depression-china/>

[Lucy Purnell summarises a recent cross-sectional study from China, which explores perinatal depression in women during the 2019 coronavirus pandemic.]

Freely available online

[In diversity there is strength and beauty.](#)

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC); 2020.

https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/129A-HXB/stdnt082020?utm_source=Nursing%20and%20Midwifery%20Council&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11768533_Copy%20of%20Student%20newsletter%20August%202020&dm_i=129A%2C708NP%2C2NC6DX%2CS8JBX%2C1#Anchor-3

[SLAM's nursing associate apprentice Mushtag Kahin has written this guest article on the Nursing and Midwifery Council website.

In this article, she discusses how she's pursuing her ambitions in the face of institutional racism, personal commitments and a lack of Black leaders in health and social care.

Published 28.8.20]

Freely available online

[Is it time for a more holistic assessment of labour progress?](#)

Nash K. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(8):457–459.

[It's important that vaginal examinations are undertaken only when there is a clear clinical indication rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach. This article considers the assessment of labour progress and questions the generalised acceptance of undertaking routine vaginal examinations during the care provision of women experiencing low-risk spontaneous labour.]

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[Mental health in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: cross-sectional analyses from a community cohort study.](#)

Jia R. *BMJ Open* 2020;10(9):e040620.

[People are experiencing significantly more stress, anxiety and depression since lockdown began, with women and young people the most affected, according to a major new study led by University of Nottingham and King's College London.]

Freely available online

[Midwives' role in screening for antenatal depression and postnatal depression.](#)

Hollins Martin C. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):666–672.

[This is an educational paper which aims to inform midwives of tools available to help them make appropriate provisional diagnosis of perinatal depression. A second aim of the paper is to increase midwives' awareness of the relatively newer diagnosis of antenatal depression (AND). Of additional clinical importance, midwives need to recognise that postnatal depression (PND) may be a continuation of AND.]

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[Physiology's role in labour assessment.](#)

Nash K. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):630–632.

[This article considers the importance of observing the physiological and behavioural cues exhibited by women during advanced labour to facilitate labour assessment. In-depth knowledge of labour physiology is important as it enables midwives to systematically anticipate, gather and interpret these cues while considering possible differential diagnoses.]

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[Supporting vegans through pregnancy and lactation.](#)

Barlow J. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):644–650.

[This article gathers the current knowledge base around veganism and plant-based diets in pregnancy and infant feeding, to explore how midwives can better support the increasing numbers of women and families who are embracing a plant-based lifestyle. People who identify as vegan are becoming increasingly common. There has also been an increase in 'flexitarianism' and those adopting plant-based diets for health and/or environmental reasons.]

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[Tales of two midwives: medical conditions of pregnancy that changed our midwifery practice.](#)

Perry A. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):640–643.

[The stories of our lives that bring each of us to a career in midwifery are unique. The stories, once we are midwives, that then influence our careers, are also unique. These stories of care for women characterise the course of our

careers and ourselves. A short essay competition to attend the annual Medical Complications in Pregnancy conference 2019 gave two colleagues from London the occasion to reflect on situations from practice where childbirth deviated from 'normal' and into disease.]

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[The impact of revised diagnostic criteria on hospital trends in gestational diabetes mellitus rates in a high income country.](#)

McMahon LE. *BMC Health Services Research* 2020;20(1):795.

[We found adoption of the new criteria for diagnosis of GDM resulted in a major increase in the incidence of GDM rates in Ireland. Inter-hospital variations increased over the decade, which may be explained by variations in the implementation of the new national guidelines in different maternity units.] *Freely available online*

[The psychological impact of COVID-19 and other viral epidemics on frontline healthcare workers and ways to address it: A rapid systematic review, Brain, Behavior and Immunity.](#)

Sonja CABARKAPA et al. *Brain, Behavior and Immunity* 2020;:Online.

[Frontline health care workers (HCWs), especially females and nurses, are among the most vulnerable groups at risk of mental health problems, especially during severe viral epidemics. Fear of uncertainty or becoming infected were at the forefront of the psychological challenges faced. Several studies demonstrated an increased risk of acquiring a trauma or stress-related disorder, depression and anxiety.]

Freely available online

[Tools for frontline professionals.](#)

Ledger S. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2020;28(9):634–635.

[Healthcare organisations need to improve the way they respond and learn following patient safety incidents. Baby Lifeline has developed a course aimed at maternity services to achieve this goal. The way in which healthcare organisations respond and learn following patient safety incidents has been repeatedly highlighted as a cause for concern. Getting that right has never been as important as it is at the time of a national pandemic.]

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