

Current awareness for Midwifery

Recent guidelines, reports and articles

September 2021

Guidelines

The following guideline(s) maybe of interest:

[Caring for vulnerable migrant women: RCM pocket guide for midwives and maternity support workers caring for vulnerable migrant women.](#)

Royal College of Midwives (RCM); 2021.

https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5280/caring-for-vulnerable-migrant-women-2020-125x85mm_14.pdf

[In recognition of the fact that every woman's circumstances are different, the contents of this guide are generically designed to serve as a practical resource, setting out principles of good care, examples of best practice and signposting for further support.]

Freely available online

[Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder: health needs assessment.](#)

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-health-needs-assessment/>

[A health needs assessment for people living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), their carers and families, and those at risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies.]

Freely available online

Reports

The following report(s) may be of interest:

[Breach of Trust: a review of the implementation of the NHS charging programme in maternity services in England.](#)

Maternity Action; 2021.

<https://maternityaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Breach-of-Trust-report-Sept2021.pdf>

[The report details how the implementation of the government's NHS charging 'overseas visitors' programme within NHS Trusts poses a significant risk to migrant women's health and wellbeing.]

Freely available online

[Health and Care Bill: combined impact assessments.](#)

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-care-bill-combined-impact-assessments/>

[The Health and Care Bill was introduced to Parliament on 6 July 2021, following publication of the white paper Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all in February 2021. This primary legislation will build on the NHS' own proposals for reform to make the health and care system less bureaucratic, more accountable, and more integrated in the wake of COVID-19. The Regulatory Policy Committee has rated these impact assessments as fit-for-purpose.]

Freely available online

[HSIB maternity programme year in review 2020/21.](#)

Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB); 2021.

<https://www.hsib.org.uk/news-and-events/hsibs-maternity-programme-a-year-in-review/>

[Over the last year, maternity investigation reports have contained 1500 safety recommendations to trusts, addressing effective escalation of safety concerns about mothers and babies, clinical oversight, clinical assessment and monitoring, use of clinical guidelines and pathways of care. The review also sets out how HSIB fits into the wider maternity picture.]

Freely available online

[Intrapartum stillbirth: learning from maternity safety investigations that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic 1 April to 30 June 2020.](#)

Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB); 2021.

<https://www.hsib.org.uk/investigations-and-reports/intrapartum-stillbirth-during-covid-19/>

[The number of intrapartum stillbirths referred to the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) between April and the end of June 2020 increased compared to the same time in the previous year. The data initiated an HSIB national learning report which explored the findings from our maternity investigations during this time.]

Freely available online

[Making maternity services safer: nurturing a positive culture.](#)

Royal College of Midwives (RCM); 2021.

<https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5275/the-solution-series-4-making-maternity-services-safer-nurturing-a-positive-culture->

[v3.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12664118_NEWSL_HMP%202021-09-](https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5275/the-solution-series-4-making-maternity-services-safer-nurturing-a-positive-culture-v3.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12664118_NEWSL_HMP%202021-09-)

[21&utm_content=rcm_button&dm_i=21A8%2C7JFP2%2C73T2IX%2CUOQNJ%2C1](https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5275/the-solution-series-4-making-maternity-services-safer-nurturing-a-positive-culture-v3.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12664118_NEWSL_HMP%202021-09-21&utm_content=rcm_button&dm_i=21A8%2C7JFP2%2C73T2IX%2CUOQNJ%2C1)

[According to this report, poor working cultures must be tackled if UK maternity services are to be made safer. It describes how a positive working environment is needed, where multi-disciplinary teams work and train together and are better equipped to deliver good quality, safe care for women and families.]

Freely available online

[Management of acute cardiovascular complications in pregnancy.](#)

Assenza GE. *European Heart Journal* 2021;:ehab546.

[This article provides a summary of recommendations on the management of acute cardiovascular complication during pregnancy, based on available literature and expert opinion.]

Freely available online

[Physiological track-and-trigger/early warning systems for use in maternity care.](#)

Smith V. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2021;9:CD013276.

[BACKGROUND: A considerable challenge for maternity care providers is recognising clinical deterioration early in pregnant women. Professional bodies recommend the use of clinical assessment protocols or evaluation tools, commonly referred to as physiological track-and-trigger systems (TTS) or early warning systems (EWS), as a means of helping maternity care providers recognise actual or potential clinical deterioration early.]

[A prognostic model, including quantitative fetal fibronectin, to predict preterm labour: the QUIDS meta-analysis and prospective cohort study.](#)

Stock SJ. *Health Technology Assessment* 2021;25(52):DOI: 10.3310/hta25520.

[Conclusions: A prognostic model that included quantitative fetal fibronectin and clinical risk factors showed excellent performance in the prediction of spontaneous preterm birth within 7 days of test, was cost-effective and can be used to inform a decision support tool to help guide management decisions for women with threatened preterm labour.]

Freely available online

[Safety, equity and engagement in maternity services.](#)

Care Quality Commission (CQC); 2021.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/themes-care/safety-equity-engagement-maternity-services>

[This report highlights continued concern about the variation in the quality and safety of England's maternity services and calls for improvements to be prioritised to ensure safer care for all mothers and babies. It draws on the findings from a sample of nine focused maternity safety inspections carried out between March and June 2021,

along with insight gathered from interviews and direct engagement with organisations representing women and their families.]

Freely available online

[Tackling Systemic Racism in Maternity Care.](#)

Stanford Social Innovation Review; 2021.

<http://www.ihl.org/resources/Pages/Publications/tackling-systemic-racism-in-maternity-care.aspx>

[IHI and Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein are using improvement science to reduce maternal mortality in 19 public-hospital, maternity-care units across Brazil. The collaborative has a particular focus on addressing racial bias that adversely affects the care and health outcomes of Black and Indigenous pregnant women.]

Freely available online

Articles

The following articles maybe of interest:

[A clinical update on hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome during pregnancy, birth and beyond.](#)

Pezaro S. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(9):492–500.

[New estimates suggest that cases of hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (hEDS) along with the related hypermobility spectrum disorders (HSD) affect approximately 1 in 20 pregnancies globally per year. As such, cases in maternity services should no longer be considered rare, only rarely diagnosed. These conditions can impact upon childbearing in different ways, yet healthcare professionals are often perceived to be lacking in awareness.]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

[Compensating for clinical negligence: the need to go back to basics.](#)

Tingle J. *British Journal of Nursing* 2021;30(16):986-987.

[The author discusses several reports looking at how our clinical negligence compensation system operates, and possible reform of this. Currently our adversarial, tort-based clinical negligence compensation system is being reviewed by the Government with a view to reform (Hyde, 2021). This review will raise some fundamental issues such as the nature and purpose of the system. What are and what should be the underlying objectives of the system? How do we deal with competing interests?]

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[Experiences of maternity care during the COVID-19 pandemic in the North of England.](#)

Stacey T. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(9):516–523.

[During 2020, UK maternity services made changes to service delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This study aimed to explore service users' and their partners' experiences of maternity services in the North of England during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents (n=606) completed a co-produced survey during August 2020. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis.]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

[Obstetric near misses among women with serious mental illness: Data linkage cohort study.](#)

Easter A. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2021;219(3):494-500.

[Conclusions: Findings emphasise the importance of integrated physical and mental healthcare before and during pregnancy for women with serious mental illness (SMI).]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

[Risk of miscarriage in women with psychiatric disorders.](#)

Magnus M. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2021;219(3):501-506.

[Conclusions: A wide range of psychiatric disorders were associated with increased risk of miscarriage. The heightened risk of miscarriage among women diagnosed with psychiatric disorders highlights the need for awareness and surveillance of this risk group in antenatal care.]

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[Route of oxytocin administration for preventing blood loss at caesarean section: a systematic review with meta-analysis.](#)

Torloni MR. *BMJ Open* 2021;11(9):e051793.

[There is limited, low to very low certainty evidence on the effects of IMY versus intravenous oxytocin at CS for preventing blood loss. The evidence is insufficient to support choosing one route over another. More trials, including studies that assess intramuscular oxytocin administration, are needed on this relevant question.]

Freely available online

[The definition, screening, and treatment of postpartum anemia: A systematic review of guidelines.](#)

Ruiz de Viñaspre-Hernández R. *Birth* 2021;48(1):14-25 .

[This review highlights the need to reach a consensus on the definition of postpartum anemia, to agree on what constitutes a problem for maternal health, and to provide recommendations that reach greater consensus on its diagnosis and treatment.]

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[The effect of COVID-19 on intrapartum care: a case review from early in the pandemic.](#)

Martin H. *British Journal of Midwifery* 2021;29(9):532–535.

[The COVID-19 pandemic has had a marked impact on maternity services in the UK. Those who are pregnant are identified as a higher risk population and there have been significant changes in the structure of antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care. This case of interest explores a moderate case of SARS-CoV-2 during the intrapartum period in the early stages of the pandemic which was managed by a multidisciplinary approach.]

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[Tranexamic acid for treatment of primary postpartum hemorrhage after vaginal delivery: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.](#)

Della Corte L. *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine* 2020;33(5):869-874 .

[In women with established PPH after vaginal delivery, the use of TXA reduces the risk of hysterectomy and does not increase the risk of thrombotic events. We recommend 1 g plus a second dose of 1 g if bleeding continues after 30 min.]

Contact the library for a copy of this article

Blogs

[Isolation and loneliness in women living with perinatal depression: how can we heal our dislocated self and relationships?](#)

The Mental Elf; 2021.

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

[In her debut blog, Jacqueline Kent-Marvick reviews a qualitative study exploring the role of isolation and loneliness in the narratives of women diagnosed with perinatal depression.]

Freely available online

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