



# Midwifery Bulletin

## July 2024

**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:

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### News, Guidelines and Reports

**Action on Smoking & Health (ASH):** [Rates of smoking in pregnancy see biggest single-year drop since data started being recorded](#)

**Health Service Journal:** [Exclusive: Lack of surgery capacity adding to risk for babies and mothers](#)

A lack of surgery capacity at dozens of maternity units is adding to the risk of serious harm to mothers and newborn babies, HSJ has found.

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**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA):** [Topiramate \(Topamax\): introduction of new safety measures, including a Pregnancy Prevention Programme](#)

**Nursing and Midwifery Council:** [Independent culture review](#)

**The Guardian:** [Pregnant women suffer racist and discriminatory abuse at NHS trust, says inquiry head](#)

### Maternity services and workforce

**Assessing the success of a research leadership programme for senior nurses and midwives: A mixed methods programme evaluation | Nursing Open, 11, 7**

We report the results of a service evaluation of the NICE 3-year Senior Nurse and Midwife Research Leader Programme including strengths, areas for improvement and achievement of programme aims.

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**Consent practices in midwifery: A survey of UK midwives | Midwifery 129, 2024, 103893**

To explore midwives' knowledge and understanding of the law and practice of consent in the post-Montgomery world.



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### Maternal health inequalities

**Associations between neighbourhood deprivation, ethnicity and maternal health outcomes in England: a nationwide cohort study using routinely collected healthcare data | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, 2024, 78(8), pp. 500-507**

This study has highlighted that neighbourhood deprivation and ethnicity are important, independently associated risk factors for severe maternal morbidity (SMM).

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**Difference in the mode of delivery in obstetric patients who have experienced intimate partner or sexual violence compared to those who have not: A systematic review and meta-analysis | Reproductive, Female and Child Health**

Obstetrics patients with a history of IPV/sexual violence appear to be more likely to deliver via caesarean section as compared to those who do not.

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**Gender-inclusive language in midwifery and perinatal services: A guide and argument for justice | Birth, 2024**

We highlight how privileging sexed language causes harm to all who birth—including pregnant trans, gender diverse, and non-binary people—and is, therefore, unethical and incompatible with the principles of midwifery.

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**Implementing and evaluating resources to support good maternity care for parents with learning disabilities: A qualitative feasibility study in England | Midwifery, June 2024**

The aim of this study was to inform the future design and implementation of the Together Project resources within three specific objectives: (1) how midwives and parents with learning disabilities perceive the project resources; (2) what factors affect the implementation and evaluation of the project resources; and (3) how the resources should be refined and improved.

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**The diversity debate: is midwifery higher education addressing the challenges of systemic racism? | British Journal of Midwifery, 2024, 32(7), pp. 380-386**

This article highlights the lack of global majority midwifery academics, and charts the decisions and experiences of global majority applicants and students in midwifery higher education.

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## Maternal mental health

### **A review of guidelines for perinatal mental health: psychological and psychosocial assessment and intervention**

This [article from The Mental Elf](#) summarises a systematic review of clinical psychological guidance for perinatal mental health from the UK, Australia and Canada.

### **Efficacy of a single low dose of esketamine after childbirth for mothers with symptoms of prenatal depression: randomised clinical trial | BMJ, 2024, 385**

For mothers with prenatal depression, a single low dose of esketamine after childbirth decreases major depressive episodes at 42 days postpartum by about three quarters.

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### **Experiencing perinatal mental health difficulties as a non-birthing mother in a female same-sex couple: a wider reflection on heteronormative cis-gendered care in maternity services | Evidence-Based Nursing, 2024, 27(3), 90**

Maternity services and professionals should have a reflective approach on their heteronormative and cis-gendered model, creating inclusive space for non-birthing mothers and considering the extra challenges coming from being non-birthing parents and belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.

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### **Pregnancy and birth complications and long-term maternal mental health outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis | BJOG, 2024**

To review the published literature on pregnancy and birth complications and long-term maternal mental health outcomes. Exposure to complications during pregnancy and birth increases the odds of long-term depression, anxiety disorder and PTSD.

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## Antenatal care

### **Intrapartum maternal glycaemic control for the prevention of neonatal hypoglycaemia: a systematic review and meta-analysis | BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

Neonatal hypoglycaemia is the most common metabolic disorder in infants, and may be influenced by maternal glycaemic control. This systematic review evaluated the effect of intrapartum maternal glycaemic control on neonatal hypoglycaemia.

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### **Vaping during pregnancy: a systematic review of health outcomes | BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

Smoking during pregnancy is harmful to maternal and child health. Vaping is used for smoking cessation but evidence on health effects during pregnancy is scarce. We conducted a systematic review of health outcomes of vaping during pregnancy.

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### Pregnancy complications

**Outpatient versus inpatient management of preterm prelabor rupture of membranes: A systematic review and meta-analysis | Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica**

To compare neonatal, obstetrical, and maternal outcomes associated with outpatient versus inpatient management of pregnancies with preterm prelabor rupture of membranes (PPROM).

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**Molar pregnancy: a qualitative study of personal experiences and societal narratives of loss | British Journal of Midwifery, 2024, 32(7), pp. 342-351**

Molar pregnancy is a rare complication of pregnancy. Patients face surgery, human chorionic gonadotropin monitoring and potentially systemic treatment, resulting in unique support needs. This study's aim was to explore the impacts of gestational trophoblastic disease on embodied and emotional experience.

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### Labour and childbirth

**Association between decision-to-delivery time and neonatal outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis | BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

Decision-to-delivery time (DDT), a crucial factor during the emergency caesarean section, may potentially impact neonatal outcomes. This study aims to assess the association between DDT and various neonatal outcomes.

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**Effects of perineal massage at different stages on perineal and postpartum pelvic floor function in primiparous women: a systematic review and meta-analysis | BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

Meta-analysis was used to evaluate the effect of implementing perineal massage in antenatal versus the second stage of labor on the prevention of perineal injuries during labor and early postpartum pelvic floor function in primiparous women.

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### Postnatal care

**Association of oxytocin augmentation with postpartum hemorrhage: a systematic review and meta-analysis | The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine**

The current study aims to evaluate the correlation between oxytocin augmentation and postpartum hemorrhage.

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**Quantitative blood loss measurement methods for early detection of primary postpartum haemorrhage following vaginal birth: A scoping review | Journal of Clinical Nursing, 2024**

Healthcare professionals need to acknowledge the low accuracy of visual estimation



methods and implement quantitative methods to assess postpartum blood loss. Given the limitations inherent in each assessment method, quantification of blood loss should be combined with assessment of maternal vital signs, physiologic indicators and other factors.

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### Infant feeding

**An evidence-based nipple care pathway for new breastfeeding mothers: a Delphi study | British Journal of Midwifery, 2024, 32(7), pp. 352-362**

This study aimed to develop an evidence-based tool for early identification and management of breastfeeding-related nipple injuries through expert consensus.

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### Neonatal care

**Cumulative sucrose exposure for repeated procedural pain in preterm neonates and neurodevelopment at 18 months of corrected age: a prospective observational longitudinal study | BMJ Paediatrics Open, 2024, 8(1), e002604**

We examined the association between total sucrose volumes administered to preterm neonates for pain mitigation in the NICU and their neurodevelopment at 18 months of corrected age (CA).

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**Maternal Postpartum Depression Screening and Early Intervention in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit | Advances in Pediatrics, 2024, 71(1), pp. 55-67**

This article reviews what PPD is, how to diagnose it, maternal and infant outcomes, treatment options, risk factors for PPD in the NICU, and a proposed algorithm for screening and managing PPD within the NICU.

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**Neonatal bacterial sepsis | Lancet. 2024**

Neonatal sepsis remains one of the key challenges of neonatal medicine. By contrast to sepsis in older patients, there is no universally accepted neonatal sepsis definition. This poses substantial challenges in clinical practice, research, and health-care management.

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**Pulmonary Vascular Regulation in the Fetal and Transitional Lung | Clinics in Perinatology, 2024, 51(1), pp. 1-19**

This review focuses on the key events and determinants of fetal pulmonary vascular development and transitional physiology providing examples from preclinical and clinical studies, including research conducted by our group.

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**Using digital parent passports in neonatal units to standardise care | Nursing Times, 2024, 120(8)**



A successful pilot led to the digital passport's adoption in 22 neonatal units across the North West of England. Ongoing plans include further enhancements to the passport, and there is potential for broader clinical applications

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