



Midwifery Bulletin

October 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:

Library and Knowledge Services at Pilgrim Hospital

Tel: 01205 445272 Email: library.pilgrim@ulh.nhs.uk

News, Guidelines and Reports

Blood clots are leading cause of death during pregnancy, report shows

The maternal death rate in the UK is at its highest for 20 years, with thrombosis and thromboembolism the leading cause of death, according to a [major report from MBRRACE-UK](#).

You can read the full report below:

- **Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care (MBRRACE-UK)**
The [Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme has published Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care, an MBRRACE-UK report](#) containing surveillance findings and lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths. It contains six national recommendations for improvement.

First newborn babies tested for over 200 genetic conditions as world-leading study begins in NHS hospitals | NHS England

Hundreds of babies have begun to be tested for over 200 rare genetic conditions [as part of a world-leading study in NHS hospitals](#) that aims to screen up to 100,000 newborns in England.

Maternal mental health services: progress report

The Maternal Mental Health Alliance has released [new research into the current landscape of Maternal Mental Health Services \(MMHS\) in England](#).

Royal College of Nursing guidelines

[Bladder and bowel care in childbirth](#)

Maternity services and workforce

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic midwifery students' experience of a white cultural environment | Evidence-Based Nursing, 27(4), p. 153

It is imperative to implement midwifery curricula that are non-Eurocentric but inclusive and representative of different groups, viewpoints and voices. Amplifying the voice, opinion and presence of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) midwives will improve the quality and safety of BAME women, children and families.



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Midwifery students' experiences of learning to be 'with woman': a scoping review | British Journal of Midwifery, 32(8), pp. 422–431

Being 'with woman' is a fundamental concept of midwifery and profoundly impacts maternal and infant wellbeing and outcomes. Understanding student midwives' experiences is vital in shaping learning strategies for positive and effective student-centred learning outcomes. This scoping review's aims were to gain meaningful insight into existing literature on students' experiences of learning to be 'with woman'.

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Maternal health inequalities

A qualitative review of adolescent childbirth experiences, its impact on development and the need for age-specific care | African Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, 18(3), pp. 1-19

This review's aim was to explore the available literature in relation to the need for age-specific care for adolescents during birth.

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Understanding the intersectionality of birth trauma and obstetric racism for black, Latina and Asian mothers can help prevent harm and enhance respectful maternity care | Evidence-Based Nursing, 27(4), p. 152

Despite the established link between traumatic childbirth and practitioner maltreatment, understanding of ethnically diverse mothers' experiences of obstetric racism within the context of traumatic childbirth is lacking. Changes are required to address both systemic and interpersonal racism. This requires practitioner awareness training, access to doulas, greater racial/ethnic diversity among maternity care staff, and improvements in educational curricula.

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Maternal mental health

Mindfulness interventions during pregnancy reduce depressive symptoms among healthy pregnant women | Evidence-Based Nursing, 27(4), p. 134

Mindfulness interventions may alleviate or prevent depression and anxiety among mentally healthy pregnant women, but evidence suggests they are less effective for women with a history of depression or perinatal depressive or anxiety symptoms.

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Perinatal psychiatry | Medicine, 52(9), pp. 547-551

Perinatal psychiatric disorders are common and can result in significant suffering for women and their families: suicide is a leading cause of maternal death. The most severe form of postpartum mood disorder – postpartum psychosis – follows approximately 1 in 1000 deliveries. Women who have a history of bipolar disorder or who have suffered a previous severe postpartum episode have a many-hundred-fold increased risk, and identifying them in the antenatal period is a key aspect of management.

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Antenatal care

Maternal cigarette smoking before or during pregnancy increases the risk of severe neonatal morbidity after delivery: a nationwide population-based retrospective cohort study | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, 78(11), pp. 690-699

Maternal cigarette smoking before or during pregnancy increased the risk of infant SNM, even at a low dose of 1-2 cigarettes/day. Interventions should emphasise the detrimental effects of even light smoking before and during pregnancy.

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Fundamentals

The respiratory system and associated disorders | British Journal of Midwifery, 32(10), pp. 562-569

This second article explores the maternal respiratory system, outlining the key physiological adaptations in pregnancy and summarises the key pathophysiological conditions that may occur.

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Pregnancy complications

COVID-19 diagnosis, vaccination during pregnancy, and adverse pregnancy outcomes of 865,654 women in England and Wales: a population-based cohort study | The Lancet Regional Health

Pregnant women with a COVID-19 diagnosis have higher risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes. These findings support recommendations towards high-priority vaccination against COVID-19 in pregnant women.

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Maternity emergencies 1: antepartum haemorrhage | Journal of Paramedic Practice 2024, 16(8), pp. 1-5

This series on maternity care will highlight a range of maternity emergencies and detail the pathophysiology as well as their prehospital treatment and management. The series starts with antepartum haemorrhage and will progress through the pregnancy journey to the postpartum in each episode. Antepartum haemorrhage is serious and unpredictable, and the paramedic plays an important role in identifying its symptoms and managing it. The term woman and mother is used, but pronouns may need to be adapted because of patient preference.

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Retinal and choroidal microvascular features during pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis | BMJ Open, 14(8), e087319

This systematic review and meta-analysis seeks to analyse retinal and choroidal microvasculature features in healthy pregnant women using optical coherence tomography angiography (OCTA).

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Labour and childbirth

Safety of water births: new research | British Journal of Midwifery, 32(9), p. 461

Editorial discussing water immersion in labour and the findings of a recent study published in the British Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. The researchers examined the records from 73 229 women across 26 NHS maternity services; the study concluded that having a water birth was not associated with increased risk of adverse primary maternal or neonatal outcomes.

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Women's experiences of vaginal examinations in labour: a literature review | British Journal of Midwifery, 32(10), pp. 534-543

Understanding women's perceptions of vaginal examinations is essential to guide future clinical practice. This literature review aimed to explore women's experiences of vaginal examinations in labour.

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Neonatal care

Calculation Skills: Inotrope therapy for neonatal hypotension | Journal of Prescribing Practice, 6(10), pp. 416-417

Calculation skills: Inotrope therapy for neonatal hypotension: answers | Journal of Prescribing Practice, 6(10) p.438

Low arterial blood pressure is a common adverse event in neonates, and is a feature of several clinical conditions specific to this population. Hypotension is associated with failure of adaptation to extrauterine life, perinatal asphyxia and patent ductus arteriosus. Additionally, cardiovascular instability with resulting fluctuations in blood pressure is commonly associated with preterm birth.

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Changes in the intestinal microbiome of the preterm baby associated with stopping non-invasive pressure support: a prospective cohort study | BMJ Paediatrics Open, 8(1)

In this prospectively recruited cohort study, high-throughput 16S rRNA gene sequencing was combined with contemporaneous clinical data collection, to assess within-subject changes in microbiome development around the time of transitioning from non-invasive positive pressure respiratory support to unsupported spontaneous breathing.

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Pregnancy and baby loss

Baby Loss Week: Black women describe their experiences - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly5z9ggpe7o>

'He was our little person': Kym Marsh among parents cherishing new baby loss certificates

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly28yyinl97o>



Library training sessions

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During the session, we will highlight:

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Training session*

Date: Tuesday Dec 10, 2024

Time: 14:00hrs

Duration: 30 min (+ Q&A 15min)

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**Certificate of attendance will be provided*



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