

NMPA

National Maternity & Perinatal Audit



Introducing the new National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA)



What is the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit?

The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) is a new large scale audit of the NHS maternity services across England, Scotland and Wales.

Using timely, high quality data, the audit aims to evaluate a range of care processes and outcomes in order to identify good practice and areas for improvement in the care of women and babies looked after by NHS maternity services.

The audit will consist of three elements:

1 A survey of the organisation of maternity care in England, Scotland and Wales which will provide an up-to-date overview of maternity care provision, women's access to recommended services and options available to them

2 A continuous prospective clinical audit of a number of key interventions and outcomes which will identify unexpected variation between service providers or regions

3 A flexible programme of periodic 'sprint audits' that examine specific topics within a focused time frame

Who is responsible for the audit?

Commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), the audit is led by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in partnership with the Royal College of Midwives, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It began on 1st July 2016 and is initially commissioned for three years.

What benefits will the audit produce?

The NMPA will enable reliable reporting on a range of key measures using high-quality clinical data. We will use this data to produce annual reports, two organisational survey reports, as well as a series of in-depth reports on specific topics. The first annual report is expected in autumn 2017.

We will develop an interactive online facility whereby maternity care providers and commissioners can access timely reports, and benchmark the care provided by their service against other, similar services, regional or national averages, or local or national standards.

Together, these outputs from the audit will allow healthcare professionals, NHS managers, commissioners and policy makers to examine the extent to which current practice meets guidelines and standards and to identify areas for improvement.



Is participation mandatory?

As the audit is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme and included in the Quality Accounts, all NHS maternity units in England, Scotland and Wales are expected to participate. This wide participation will give a rich overview of the services and will allow meaningful comparisons to be made.

How will the data be collected?

Continuous prospective audit

It will not be necessary for maternity services to collect any additional clinical data specifically for the prospective audit as we will make use of data already collected routinely as part of women's and babies' care.

- In England, we will initially use an extract from each maternity service's electronic maternity record system and link this with Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Once the National Maternity Services Dataset has been fully implemented and embedded, this will become the main data source for the continuous prospective audit.
- In Wales, data will be sourced from local electronic maternity systems, linked to the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW).
- In Scotland, data will be taken from the Scottish Birth Record (SBR) and Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR02) datasets.

Sprint audits

We do not envisage any bespoke data collection being required for the topic-specific sprint audits, as we plan to make extensive use of data linkage to combine existing local and national data sources.

Organisational Survey

As part of the audit we will be collecting data directly from trusts and health boards via an organisational survey of Clinical Directors and Heads of Midwifery in early 2017. Building on existing sources of data, this survey will collect additional information on service delivery and the organisation of maternity care and will contribute to a better understanding of the care provided to pregnant women.

Will women using the maternity services be involved and have access to audit results?

A number of organisations representing women using maternity services have been involved in the design and implementation of the audit and will continue to be consulted on the running of the audit and its priorities.

Women using the maternity services and the general public will have access to all NMPA reports and plain English and Welsh summaries via the NMPA website

www.maternityaudit.org.uk



NMPA Senior Clinical Leads



Tina Harris
NMPA Senior Clinical Lead
for Midwifery

Principal Lecturer in
Midwifery/ Faculty Head
of Research Students,
De Montfort University



Dharmintra Pasupathy
NMPA Senior Clinical Lead
for Obstetrics

Consultant Obstetrician,
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS
Foundation Trust



Jane Hawdon
NMPA Senior Clinical Lead
for Neonatology

Consultant Neonatologist
and Clinical Academic Group
Director for Women's and
Children's Health,
Barts Health NHS Trust

Senior Lecturer in Maternal
and Fetal Medicine and
Perinatal Epidemiology,
King's College London

Further information

For further information and resources please visit the audit website where you can also subscribe to the email newsletter for regular audit updates:

 www.maternityaudit.org.uk

Alternatively you can contact us at:

 nmpa@rcog.org.uk

 020 7772 6498