

NMPA

National Maternity & Perinatal Audit



Information for women who have a baby
in this maternity unit after 1st April 2014



This maternity unit is taking part in a national clinical audit called the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA).

What is an audit?

A clinical audit is a way to find out if healthcare is being provided in line with standards. It lets care providers and patients know where their service is doing well, and where there could be improvements. The aim is to allow quality improvement to take place where it will be most helpful and will improve outcomes for patients.

What is the purpose of this audit?

The aim of the NMPA is to study how mothers and babies are cared for in maternity units across England, Scotland and Wales. It will make it easier for units to monitor the care they provide. The audit will include information about all mothers who have a baby after 1st April 2014.

Who will benefit from this audit?

Mothers and babies in the future will be helped by this clinical audit, as maternity units will receive reports comparing the quality of maternity care they provide with other units, and guidance about ways to improve their services.

What information is used?

As part of routine maternity care, electronic information is already collected about all women who use maternity services. The information is used by the staff in the maternity unit every day in the same way that paper medical records are used. Information gathered includes your NHS number, date of birth, postcode, details about the care you and your baby received during your pregnancy and labour and your baby's time and place of birth. For this audit, maternity units will share your electronic information with the audit team.*

What happens then?

The audit team will combine this information with data from a number of different sources, for example, to see if you or your baby were re-admitted to another hospital for any reason. Once the data has been combined, any information that could be used to identify you or your baby (e.g. NHS number, date of birth and postcode) will be removed. Nothing in the reports or the way they are used will show any information which could lead to you or your baby being identified.

* The audit team have approval from the Health Research Authority's Confidentiality Advisory Group (reference number 16/CAG/0058) to use this information.

How do I know the information will be kept securely?

Information will be stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation. Only the audit team will have access to it.

Do I have to take part?

To be really effective, the audit needs information from as many women as possible but you do not have to take part if you do not wish to do so. If you don't want your care details included, please contact us using the contact details below. We will make sure that the audit team do not use your information. The care you receive in future will not be affected in any way by the decision you make.

Will women using maternity services be involved in the design of the audit?

A number of organisations representing women using maternity services are involved in the design and oversight of the audit.

Will women using maternity services have access to the audit's results?

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).





Who is carrying out this project?

The NMPA is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England, the Welsh Government and the Health Department of the Scottish Government. It is being carried out by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in partnership with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Further information

If you would like to know more about our work please visit the audit's website:



www.maternityaudit.org.uk

Alternatively you can contact us at:



nmpa@rcog.org.uk



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