

Expansion

October 2019 is an important time for UKMidSS because it marks the start of our fourth study and, at the same time, we welcome the participation of freestanding midwifery units (FMUs). The response to the invitation to get involved in UKMidSS has been really encouraging. So far we have welcomed around 70 new units, mostly FMUs, as UKMidSS collaborators. All these new units are joining us for this latest study, which is about **PPH**. This is great as it will enhance the value of outcomes for all future UKMidSS studies; and will be good news for all the families who choose to use midwifery units as their place of birth.

Help! What do I do?!

If you are a new UKMidSS Reporter, or even if you have been a reporter for a while and have forgotten what to do, then a good place to start is the UKMidSS website:

<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukmidss/reporters>

Some of you will have attended one or both of the live webinars in August and September, but if you couldn't make it don't worry. Both webinars are available on the website too, so you can watch the presentations at a time and place to suit you.



Where is my folder?

In the interest of postage and the environment, we generally only supply you with one white UKMidSS folder per unit, but if you'd really like another copy please get in touch and we can send another! We can email you extra copies of file inserts such as the case report forms and UKMidSS posters if you would like some to print yourself.

PPH Study

The PPH study started on 1st September 2019. Your first report request arrived on 1st October 2019. As a reminder, the inclusion criteria for this study is any woman who gave birth in an AMU or FMU and:

- had a PPH requiring transfer to an obstetric unit
OR
- received care from an obstetrician for a PPH without transfer to an obstetric unit.

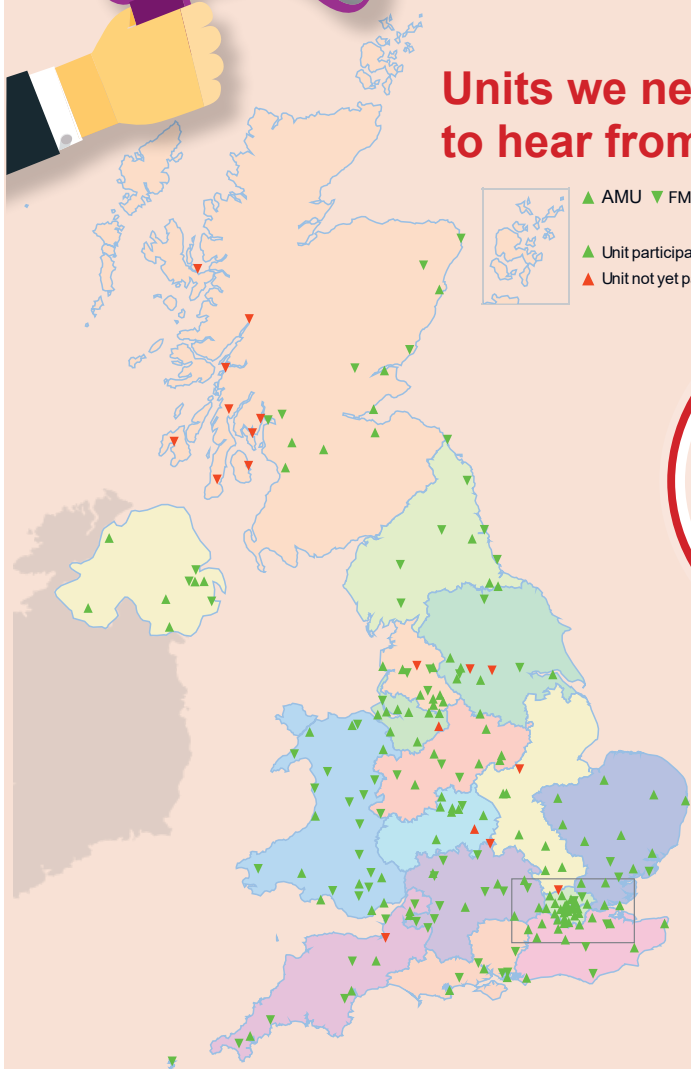
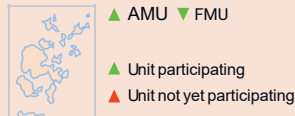
What is a PPH?

For the 'PPH Study' any woman who has a PPH and is transferred for PPH, or who sees an obstetrician for PPH is a case, **irrespective of blood loss volume.**

Location of AMUs and FMUs



Units we need to hear from you!



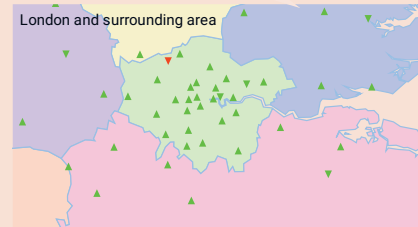
Bridgewater
Dewsbury and District
Edgware Birth Centre
Horton Hospital, Banbury
Macclesfield
Melton Mowbray
Pontefract
Royal Blackburn
Warwick Hospital

Belford, Fort William
Campbeltown Hospital
Cowal Community Hospital
Community Maternity Unit, Islay
Community Maternity Unit, Isle of Arran
Community Maternity Unit, Lorn and Islands
Community Maternity Unit, Mid Argyll
Community Maternity Unit, Skye
Community maternity Unit, Rothesay

Are you
a MLU?

Data source for unit location:
BirthChoiceUK database; used
with permission from Rod Gibson
Associates Ltd.

Contains OS data © Crown
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26/09/19



The UKMidSS Biscuit Awards

The 'Previous PPH' study is still ongoing and is now in the final stages of data collection. Of course, all UKMidSS reporters who have worked on this project could do with an award, but we can only acknowledge a few at a time! This September we want to acknowledge **Karen Cook-Smith** from the **MLU at Luton & Dunstable** and **Lesley Cochrane** from the **White Horse Birth Centre at Swindon** for working to clear their outstanding reports and queries; and **Julie Grindey** at **Stockport Birth Centre** (again) for her ongoing support and good humour. A small token is on its way to you all.

We know many of you work in time-precious settings, so please do know that we appreciate all your efforts. If you would like to nominate a colleague who has quietly been doing fabulous work for UKMidSS please do let us know so we can give them due recognition.



Say Hello ...and wave Goodbye!

So the Hello is welcoming many new midwife reporters to UKMidSS and the Goodbye is from Ginny as I take up a new post as a Midwifery Lecturer. I am sorry not to have met any of you in person during my short time at UKMidSS, but I hope our paths may cross at some point in the future, especially if you are interested in women's health research. I will continue to take a great interest in UKMidSS and its outputs. Good luck everyone and keep the data coming!

Rachel will be looking for a new Research Midwife, should you know anyone in the Oxford area who might be suitable. In the meantime, please be patient as she runs UKMidSS single-handed and with her other hats on...



One final push!

Midwives have heard all our puns about 'pushing' before..but we do need a final effort to complete the data collection phase of the **'Previous PPH study'** please. Most units have nothing else to do on this study now, but there are still a few with a bit of a backlog of entries to complete. You'll have noticed our regular emails becoming more insistent and we really don't want them to become an irritation! Please let us know if your situation seems impossible – perhaps we can talk to senior staff in your Trust about how we can go about getting you some help. Also please do ask us if it's an OpenClinica or password issue, or if you simply don't know what to do, as we can help with that.

UKMidSS Steering Group

The Steering Group last met on 24th June 2019 in Oxford, where UKMidSS is based. For those of you who don't know, the purpose of the Steering Group is to provide overall strategic direction and governance for the UKMidSS programme. The group meets three times a year and its membership includes senior midwives and obstetrician representatives, UKMidSS researchers, and at least two lay members/user representatives. Currently the Chair is Mervi Jokinen, from the Royal College of Midwives and the Vice Chair is Catherine Williams, lay member. New members are: Karen Joash, Consultant Obstetrician, Imperial College; Meena Bhatia, Consultant Obstetrician, Oxford; Jackie O'Neill, Lead Midwife FMUs, South Eastern Trust; Phillipa Cox, Consultant Midwife, Homerton and Anna Temke, Lead Midwife, Marton Suite, Middlesborough. Here are some of the members at the meeting in June!



The full list of members is on our website - <https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukmidss/management>

Coming soon! UKMidSS Emergency Equipment and Protocols Survey

A quick note to give you advance warning of a short UKMidSS survey coming your way later this year, alongside our PPH Study. We know that maternal and neonatal emergencies in midwifery units are uncommon. We're not aware of any national guidelines about the clinical equipment for use in emergencies that should be available in midwifery units, but we know that this varies from place to place. We also know that the arrangements for obtaining support in the event of an emergency vary. So, later this year, we will be inviting you to take part in a short survey to describe and document practice across the country. MSc student Rosie Meroz, who is a midwife from Israel now studying in Oxford, will be working with us on this project. Please look out for more information about this survey and if you have any questions please get in touch.



Interview with Marie Foreman

Now that we have welcomed freestanding midwifery units into UKMidSS we thought it would be nice to hear from them. This month Marie Foreman, who is Midwifery Matron at Eastbourne Midwifery Unit, kindly 'volunteered' to be interviewed for the newsletter!

Marie, can you tell us a little about yourself and your role at Eastbourne Midwifery Unit?

I was one of the first direct entry midwives, I qualified in November 1997 therefore I have been a midwife for 22 years. I am a mum of two grown up children and a proud grandmother to a two year old granddaughter. I was a Supervisor of Midwives and am now a Professional Midwifery Advocate.

How long have you here and what did you do before?

I have worked at Eastbourne Midwifery unit since February 2015 as the birthing centre lead. Prior to that I worked in a variety of clinical settings, including high risk acute care as a labour ward co coordinator and postnatal lead matron.

Can you tell us a bit more about Eastbourne Midwifery Unit?

Eastbourne Midwifery Unit (EMU) opened in May 2013 following the temporary reconfiguration of maternity services in East Sussex which was made permanent in July 2014. Obstetric consultant led services were concentrated at the Conquest Hospital in St Leonards. EMU is situated in the Eastbourne District General Hospital and is located within the area which was previously the Delivery Suite. The unit offers midwife-led antenatal, intrapartum and in-patient and out-patient postnatal care. Last year we had 400 women choose to birth with us, and 332 births, which was our busiest year since we opened! We have two labour rooms, including one pool room. We run BCG clinics, tongue tie clinics and midwifery led NIPE clinics, and hold breast feeding drop in sessions. We also run monthly normal birth workshops. EMU is a vibrant, busy unit and meets the objectives of Better Births as it is considered to be a community hub for local women.

What's the best thing about working in a FMU?

The amazing team work amongst likeminded, passionate midwives who are all committed to providing safe, kind and compassionate low risk midwifery led care. Midwives are able to develop their decision making skills and improve their autonomy in a supportive environment.

Is there a midwifery question you'd like UKMidSS to find the answer to?

Why do we have days and days on end when there is no one in labour, then 1 day when we have 5 births?! Full moon....?

If you could choose a celebrity to play you in the film of your life, who would it be?

Kate Winslet (Marie hasn't elaborated on this point...she may well be an actor in her spare time?)

What three things would you take with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

A good book, a nice bottle of wine and a bed! (if I could have 4 I'd also have a hot bath!)

Finally, Eastbourne is by the seaside. Is it a good place to go on holiday?

Eastbourne is a great place to go on holiday. We have long sandy beaches for sun lovers and it is surrounded by the beautiful South Downs for those who enjoy walking in the countryside.

And finally...

It is REALLY important to let us know at UKMidSS if you are leaving your midwifery post or role, leaving your Trust, going on maternity leave or not going to be a reporter any more. Help us to keep our records in order by updating us on staff and HOM changes, so we are always in touch with the right people.



Marie is in uniform on the right and one of her UKMidSS colleagues, consultant midwife Nicky Mason, on the far left.

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