

Late Spring Newsletter



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! As the vibrant colours of spring blossom around us, we are delighted to bring you a bouquet of exciting updates.

The UKMidSS team has been really busy setting up a new survey, writing papers with outputs from studies and surveys, as well organising and delivering our Study Day in Birmingham.

In this newsletter, we will provide updates about the Advanced Maternal Age study, introduce you to our new upcoming survey about induction of labour, recent publications, our recent Study Day, and unveil two exciting opportunities to join our team!

But first of all...Biscuits!

UKMidSS Stars

Wrapping up a study is always a challenge, so our UKMidSS Stars this time round are reporters who've done a great job finishing all the reporting and data entry for our latest study: **Joelle Morgan**, from **The Midwife Led Unit at Singleton Hospital, Swansea**; **Tracey Miller**, from **The Midwifery-Led Birthing Unit at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital**; and **Juliet Evans**, from **The Midwifery Unit at Belford Hospital, Fort William**.

We can't send treats to everyone, but are really grateful for the effort each of you puts into supporting our studies – we couldn't do any of this work without you!



Advanced Maternal Age Study Update

As you will know, we finished active reporting and data collection for the Advanced Maternal Age Study on 1st February 2024. This means that there is not much time left to catch up with reporting and data entry! We will be starting new studies in 2024 so we now need one last push to complete this study.

So far, 176 units (93%) have submitted at least one report and 73% of units who have reported cases have completed data entry.

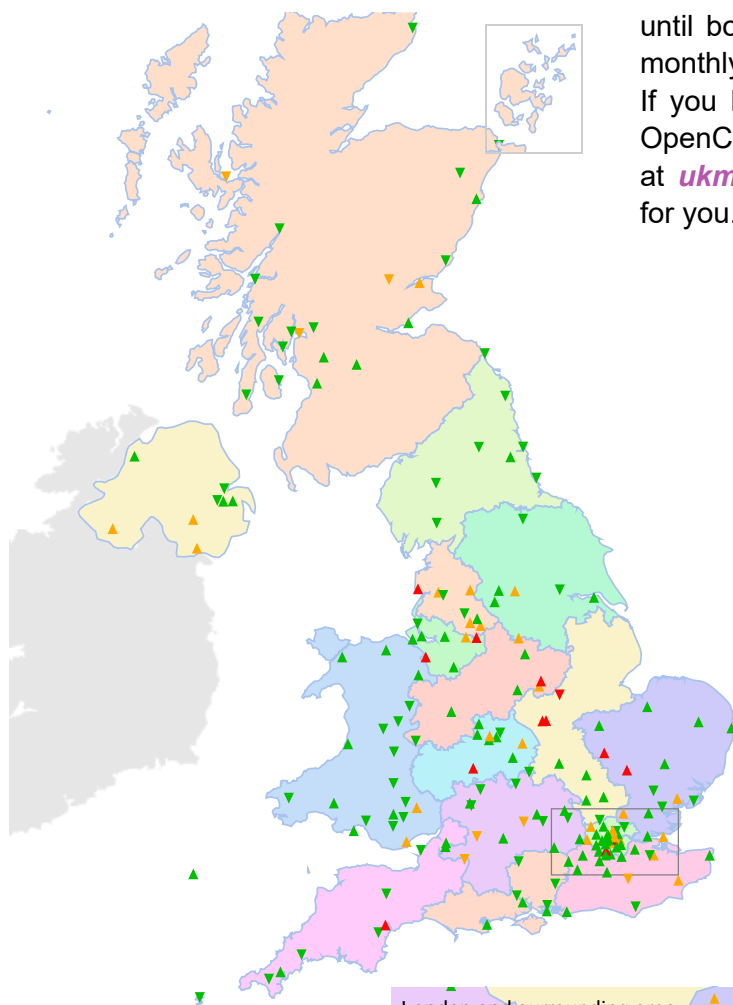
Why is complete data entry important?

In our previous studies we have usually had around 90% complete data entry. This really matters because it makes the study more reliable. This means that it is easier to get the study results published and it will have more of an impact on practice – which is why we do this research! Also, for a study like this where we have relatively low numbers of cases it doubly important to have complete data about as many cases

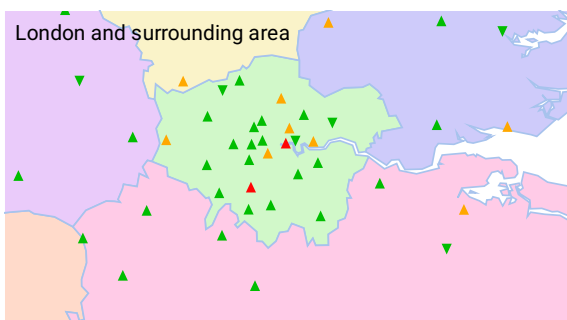
as possible. So please do everything you can to get the data entered for your cases. If you have data to enter and are waiting for your OpenClinica login details, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will give you access to the database. If you have reported cases in error, please let Alessandra know so that she can delete those cases from the database and stop chasing you.

How to enter data in OpenClinica

If you submit a monthly report including a case, you will be given a case number beginning with AM. We ask for detailed data about these cases, and for one control for each case. You need to enter these data in our database, OpenClinica. The AM id number is the same for both the CASE and the CONTROL. In OpenClinica you need to enter the data for both the case and the control. You need to click on the magnifying lens symbol for both the case and the control to enter data. Data entry is not 'complete', until both case and control are complete. We send monthly email reminders about any incomplete data. If you have data to enter and are waiting for your OpenClinica login details, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will chase those for you.



% Reports submitted Feb '23–Jan '24	
North (Cumbria and North East)	100%
Scotland	93%
Wales	95%
South (South West)	90%
South (South East)	90%
Northern Ireland	89%
North (Yorkshire and Humber)	87%
South (Wessex)	100%
South (South Central)	87%
North (Cheshire and Merseyside)	83%
Midlands and East (West Midlands)	83%
London	85%
Midlands and East (East)	76%
Midlands and East (North Midlands)	74%
North (Lancashire and Greater Manchester)	61%
Midlands and East (Central Midlands)	60%
UK total	86%



▲ AMU ▼ FMU	
▲ No reports	13
▲ Some reports	34
▲ Reports complete	142

93% of units have submitted at least one report

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

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17/05/24

Coming in June – Induction of Labour Survey

As the Advanced Maternal age study is coming to a close, we are getting ready for a new exciting project about induction of labour (IOL) in midwifery units. This project was prioritised as a topic for the [NIHR Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care](#).

Why this survey?

The proportion of births that occur following induction of labour has been increasing in the UK for at least the past ten years. About a third of labours were induced in 2021-22 in England, compared with 22% in 2011-12. In 2018/19 40% of local midwifery unit admission guidelines indicated that women having IOL (with one 'intervention') were either explicitly eligible for midwifery unit birth or might be admitted following individual assessment. The current extent of this practice, admission policies to a midwifery unit in relation to components of IOL, and outcomes are unknown. Our national survey of practice will describe practices around admission of women to midwifery units following IOL (either inpatient or outpatient).

Will we be reporting cases?

Alongside the survey, we will also send reports request for 3 months, similar to monthly reporting for our previous studies.

This is to try and capture the number of women who are admitted to a midwifery unit after any component of induction or who had any component of induction in the midwifery unit. We will not need any labour and birth data entered on OpenClinica for the women reported – we will just be asking for numbers.

We will use the results of the survey and the three-month reporting to decide whether there is scope to carry out a bigger study looking at outcomes for women admitted to midwifery units following cervical ripening or other components of induction of labour.

When will we get the survey invite?

We are planning to send the survey invite to all UKMidSS reporters at the beginning of June.

New paper: Postnatal care in Midwifery Units

Some of you who have been with us for a while might remember that, back in 2022, then MSc student midwife Imogen Graham from Oxford Brookes University worked with us on a survey looking at postnatal care in midwifery units. The aim of the survey was to describe the scope of postnatal services provided by midwifery units across the UK, both before and since the pandemic, with the aim of informing service and good practice guidance development. Imogen is now a qualified midwife and we're delighted to say that the results of the study have now been published and are available [here](#). Our paper describes the ways in which postnatal care provision differs between AMUs and FMU, with potential consequences for choice and experience for women. We also found evidence that maternity care was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a reduction in postnatal visiting for partners and in postnatal group support services



UKMidSS Study Day

On the 11th March 2024 we held our 4th Study Day... and this time it was back in person! We had well over 80 delegates attending from all over the UK! The day was inspiring, informative and once again well attended by midwives who could join us at The Studio, Birmingham. It was a great opportunity for learning and networking. The feedback we've had was incredibly positive which is really pleasing. If you attended the Study Day, you should have received an email containing your certificate and the presentations. For those of you who submitted expenses claims, these are currently being processed.

Midwifery Student Internship



Alessandra, UKMidSS Research Midwife, has been awarded funding in the first round of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Undergraduate Internship Programme which will support the hosting of a student midwife with UKMidSS later in June. The funding provided by the new scheme, which is designed to engage and attract students from underrepresented professions to consider a career in research, will enable a student midwife to undertake a paid internship for two weeks with us! We are holding the interviews this week, and looking forward to welcoming them later in June.

UKMidSS Midwife Researcher opportunity

After 4 years coordinating UKMidSS studies and surveys, Alessandra is leaving us to embark on a new exciting project. This means that we are on the hunt for the next UKMidSS midwife supporting our research! The post will be part-time (3 days a week) based at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit here in Oxford. Applications for the vacancy are open now, with details available [here](#), and a closing date of 13th June. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, you can have an informal chat with either Alessandra (Alessandra.morelli@npeu.ox.ac.uk) or Rachel (Rachel.rowe@ox.ac.uk).



Update contact details

Is one of your reporters leaving? Is the lead midwife for the MLU going on maternity leave? Is your Head of Midwifery taking a sabbatical? If yes, please do let us know. We rely on updated contact details to communicate news as well as collecting data for our studies

CPD certificates

If you need a CPD certificate for your revalidation, please get in touch! Being a UKMidSS reporter means that you are contributing to national audit and research. You can drop us an email ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk



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