

Newsletter 32 - July 2025

Summer Newsletter

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We here at UKMidSS are enjoying the warmer and brighter days, we hope you are too!

Our most important news is that the **Induction of Labour opened on 1st July!** Read on to find out more. Also covered in this edition of the UKMidSS newsletter are conference attendances, student placements and a reminder to update your unit's details ahead of the next study opening.

UKMidSS Stars

This newsletter, we have chosen two reporters who kindly helped us with our preparations for the upcoming Induction of Labour Study.

Congratulations to our winners:

- **Miriam Lamont** from the Midwife Led Unit at **Wrexham Maelor Hospital**
- **Susan Hughes** from **Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Your chocolates should arrive soon!



Induction of Labour Study

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the next study will be investigating outcomes for women who are admitted to a midwifery unit following a component of induction of labour (IOL). We have now received the necessary approvals to begin this study and are pleased to let you know that this study is now open.

Data collection for the IOL study begins on 1st July 2025 and you will receive your first report request email on 1st August 2025.

What is a 'case' for this study?

A case will be any woman who was **admitted for labour care** to the midwifery unit after having **any component of induction, whether this induction took place elsewhere or in the midwifery unit**. Please include women who had **artificial rupture of membranes (ARM) as a component of induction**. Do NOT include women who only had ARM to augment labour.

CASE

Due to the nature of this topic and the way that the data will be analysed, not all cases in this study will require a control to be identified. **As in previous studies, please report all women meeting the case definition above.**

In the data collection form for each case, you will be asked to consider whether the woman was **transferred to the obstetric unit before labour was established** (e.g. for further intervention). For women who are transferred before labour was established, we do NOT require a control to be identified, and we will be collecting only a small set of data items. For all other women, i.e. those who establish labour in the midwifery unit after a component of IOL, we will require a control to be identified and full data collection as in previous studies. The data collection form will make clear whether a control is required based on the information you enter.

Your role as a reporter

As a reminder, the figures you need to report each month are:

- The number of women who **were admitted for labour care in the midwifery unit** in the previous month
- The number of **'cases' in the midwifery unit** in the previous month
- The number of **births in the midwifery unit** in the previous month

Even if your unit does not admit women following a component of induction as standard and/or you don't have any cases to report in a given month, **please still report 0 cases** along with how many women were admitted to and how many women gave birth in your unit. We need to make sure that we get data from every unit, including those that never have any 'cases'. This means we can describe accurately how many units do, and don't, admit women following IOL so we can work out what proportion of women admitted to midwifery units have had IOL.

For each case you report, we ask you to complete the data collection forms online. This is done via a database called OpenClinica. You will need login details for this but if you don't have an account or can't remember your details, don't panic! Please contact the UKMidSS team once you report your first case and we can organise access.



Conference attendance

NIHR Reproductive Health and Childbirth Symposium

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research We were pleased to meet some of you at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Reproductive Health and Childbirth Symposium back in March at our stand and throughout the course of the day. It was great to touch base with familiar faces as well as make connections with new sites and potential reporters.

Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference



Royal College of Midwives

We both enjoyed attending the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) Conference in May. Rachel also presented 'Changes in the number and proportion of women giving birth in UK midwifery units since 2016: a secondary analysis of data reported to the UK Midwifery Study System (UKMidSS)'. It was great to see some of you in the crowd. We hope that our findings helped to show how valuable your input has been over the last nine years and continues to be as we move forwards with our next study. We will be publishing the findings from this study so keep your eyes peeled for updates later this year!

International Labour and Birth Research Conference

We're excited to say that we will be speaking at this event taking place from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th September in Preston. If you missed Rachel presenting at the RCM Conference, you have another opportunity to hear our findings on 'Changes in the number and proportion of women giving birth in UK midwifery units since 2016'. It's a topic we think you'll be very interested in. If you see us at the event, please do come and say hello. We very much enjoy seeing UKMidSS reporters in real life!

Student Elective Placement

Following on from our successful NIHR Student Internship last year, we will be hosting an undergraduate midwifery student from Oxford Brookes University for their elective placement in July. She will spend two weeks working with us and the wider team in the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. We are very much looking forward to her visit.

Update contact details

Has your unit closed (either temporarily or permanently)? 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 here:

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 @NPEU_UKMidSS  01865 617823  ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk



Royal College of Midwives

