**Maternity Clinical Network Monthly Update January 2023**

**Maternal Medicine, Intrapartum Care Group and Fetal Medicine Group**

Three Clinical Network Groups have commenced a collaborative workplan to review the Large for Gestational Age guidelines in use within the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Trusts. The chairs and vice chairs of these three groups have attended expert group meetings and a plan is in place to consider a NENC standardised guideline.

**Maternal Medicine**

NECTAR Acute Care pathway: the acute care pathway has been operational since the end of July with 1-2 cases / month. Currently it is being used for acutely unwell pregnant women with medical conditions when transfer to critical care is being considered or is taking place. In the future this may extend to acutely unwell women presenting at A&E and pregnant women with medical conditions and red flag symptoms or where a diagnosis is unclear. This is a standing agenda item for Maternal Medicine meetings.

An updated version of the Epilepsy guideline has been developed. The main change is the introduction of the drug Topiramate. The updated guideline will be shared and added to the NENC Clinical Networks website once ratified. <https://nescn.nhs.uk/page-network/maternity-children-and-families/>

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) was launched in December to capture feedback from birthing people involved in the Maternal Medicine multi-disciplinary meetings. This platform will be used to recruit patient public voices to the Maternal Medicine Clinical Expert Group.

The next meeting of Maternal Medicine Group in April will be an in person event.

**Intrapartum Care**

With a vision for collaborative working and co-production two patient public voice representatives attended the Clinical Network Expert Group meeting for the first time in December and will be attending all future meetings.

A standing agenda item for the group meetings is green initiatives within the delivery suite. Two areas of work currently taking place within NENC Trusts are the use of Cool Sticks and Nitrous Oxide exposure.

There have been some issues with stock at Provider Trusts recently. The network team have provided a means of sharing resources.  Members agreed this had been useful and that a simple process should be developed to support this.

**Fetal Medicine**

An updated guideline for screening, diagnosis and management of women at risk of placenta accreta spectrum was shared with the expert group. Feedback was requested and the guideline will be presented to the NENC Maternity Clinical Advisory Group in March.

The Fetal Medicine group were very fortunate to have a guest speaker this month. A Solicitor attended the expert group meeting and presented information about the legal aspect of comfort palliative care in Fetal Medicine. Colleagues from Neonatology joined the meeting. This generated a lot of discussion.

Prenatal Invasive Testing videos and information guides have been created and funded by the North East and Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service NEY GMS) Fetal Genomics Transformation Project. A series of three bespoke, educational videos for the pregnant person and their families within the North-East and Yorkshire, who have been referred to a regional fetal medicine unit (FMU) for consideration of a prenatal invasive test. The videos are the first digital innovation videography package in the United Kingdom relating to antenatal invasive testing and subsequent genomic results.

• Each video has its own corresponding detailed patient information leaflet

• Aim is to strengthen parental knowledge to aid meaningful and valid informed consent

• Designed with patients, for patients

• Hosted on the NEY GMS website

• The pilot is just in Newcastle and we hope to gain staff feedback over the next 3 weeks. After the NENC Maternity Clinical Advisory Group meeting in March we hope to move to phase 2 of the pilot and release to patients whilst we continue to gather feedback from both patient and staff groups. Regional launch in NEY mid-March with translations into five languages.

**Preterm Birth**

A joint North East and Yorkshire place of birth proforma has been developed and it is planned that all Trusts within the region will adopt this proforma from April 1st. Until then two of the NENC Trusts have agreed to pilot the proforma.

As a result of a shortage in Fetal Fibronectin cassettes NHS England have recommended adjustments to clinical practice and an alternative product (Actim®Partus) to support these clinical adjustments. These adjustments have been discussed with the Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, NHS England Pathology Transformation team and point of care test national experts. A flowchart for the use of Actim®Partus has been developed for use within NENC Trusts.

Darlington Memorial Hospital, West Cumberland Hospital and South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trust presented their Quarter 2 preterm birth optimisation data this month.

**Staffing**

Paula Elliott has been appointed to the role of Network Delivery Manager.