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Midwifery Unit Admission Criteria Study

Investigating, documenting and describing local
variation



Overview

- Background
- Aims
- Objectives
- Methods
- Progress so far



Background

- NICE guidance on planning place of birth
- Better Births report
- RCM Birth Environment Guidelines

Policy drivers:

- Increasing access to midwifery-led care for women at low risk of complications
- Importance of both maternal choice and safety
- Improved outcomes and reduced inequalities
- Access to the right care in the right place



What do we know?

- Percentage of births in MUs varies from 4% to 31% across England
- Anecdotal reports of local variation in admission criteria
- MUs in Northern Ireland had variation in admission criteria prior to the development of the GAIN Guideline

UKMidSS research:

- Severe obesity study
- Previous PPH study



Aims

Investigate, document and describe variation

Why?

- Variation in admission criteria represents variation in equality of access
- Variation in admission criteria represents inequality in information available to women to aid their decision making
- Variation may indicate gaps in the evidence base underpinning recommendations for place of birth



What do we hope to achieve

- Identify gaps in the evidence base
- Inform provision of informed choice of birth place for women
- Inform further research



Objectives

- Collect admission criteria guidelines for AMUs and FMUs across the UK
- Apply a systematic framework to describe and compare the guidelines
- Use descriptive statistical analysis to measure variation and consensus both between local guidelines and with national guidance



Methods

- Collect local admission criteria across the UK via a national survey of midwifery-led units
- Develop a data collection tool
- Describe how local guidelines differ from national guidelines and from each other



What do we hope to discover

- In which areas are local guidelines more restrictive or less restrictive than national guidelines
- Are there some areas in which most MUs are using the same criteria
- Are there differences between criteria used by FMUs and AMUs



Progress so far

- 93 completed survey responses
- 76 guidelines received

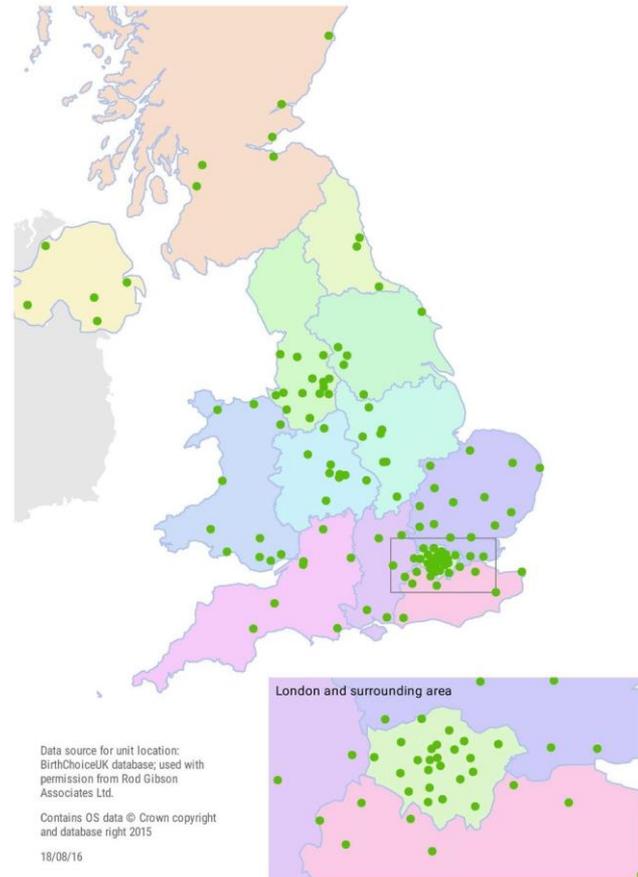
Currently in the process of downloading and anonymising guidelines, collating survey responses and entering data ready for analysis.



We'd like to hear from you

The more units we hear from, the more valid and useful the results of the study will be.

A better chance of improving access to midwifery-led care.



??Any questions??

References

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