

This event will start shortly





PERIPrem

Share and Learn:

Optimally Timed Antenatal Steroids

14 November 2023







Share and Learn Event Etiquette



When not speaking please go on **mute** to minimise background noise; click on the microphone icon to mute / unmute.



Introduce yourself before speaking to the group.



Use the chat function if you are unable to speak.



Raise your hand to indicate you would like to speak.





Use of the video is optional; turn the camera off if you do not wish to have your camera on.

Agenda

Time	Activity
14:00	Introduction and Check-in
	Dr. Sarah Bates, Consultant Paediatrician & Neonatologist, PERIPrem Clinical Lead
14:05	Setting the Scene
	South-West Data
	Dr. Sarah Bates
14:20	Evidence, Background, and Importance of Optimally Timed Antenatal Steroids
	Michelle East, Director of Midwifery at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.
	Eileen Dudley, Senior Programme Lead and MatNeo SIP Lead at Health Innovation
	Oxford and Thames Valley PSC.
	Lawrence Impey, Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine at Oxford University
	Hospitals.
14:45	Q&A for Oxford Team
	Open Discussion
14:55	BREAK
15:00	Regional Updates on Antenatal Steroid Audit Findings
	Chaired by: Dr. Sarah Bates and Dr. Judith Standing, Regional Lead Obstetrician.
	Open Discussion
15:50	Closing remarks (Evaluation and Next Event)
	Dr. Sarah Bates
16:00	Close



PERIPrem 4



Setting the Scene







Being born very early is the **leading cause**of cerebral palsy

Preterm birth complications are **the leading cause of death** among children under 5 years of age, responsible for approximately **1 million deaths in 2015**

Three-quarters of these deaths could be prevented with current, cost-effective interventions.

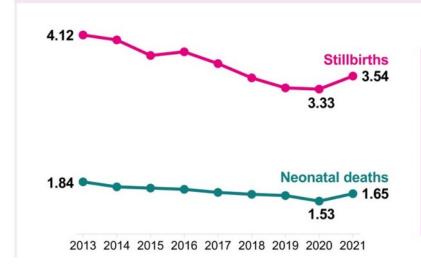


State of the Nation Report

UK Perinatal Deaths for Births from January to December 2021



1. Perinatal mortality rates increased across the UK in 2021



Stillbirths per 1,000 total births

Country	2020	2021
UK	3.33	3.54
England	3.29	3.52
Scotland	3.72	3.27
Wales	3.48	3.88
Northern Ireland	3.38	4.09

Neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births

Country	2020	2021	
UK	1.53	1.65	
England	1.50	1.60	
Scotland	1.47	1.91	
Wales	1.64	1.70	
Northern Ireland	2.37	2.46	

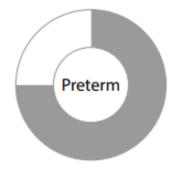
3. Stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates increased in almost all gestational age groups

Stillbirths per 1,000 total births

Gestational age	Rate	Change since 2020
22 to 23 weeks	472.7	4% increase
24 to 27 weeks	212.1	7% increase
28 to 31 weeks	81.7	12% increase
32 to 36 weeks	16.4	6% increase
37 to 41 weeks	1.19	3% decrease

Neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births

Gestational age	Rate	Change since 2020
22 to 23 weeks	660.5	2% increase
24 to 27 weeks	160.0	18% increase
28 to 31 weeks	34.0	11% increase
32 to 36 weeks	5.35	No change
37 to 41 weeks	0.66	2% increase



Births before 37 completed weeks' gestational age accounted for 75% of stillbirths and late fetal losses and 73% of neonatal deaths

- Neonatal mortality increased in 2021 across all gestational age groups.
- The greatest increase in neonatal mortality rates was in the 24 to 27 completed weeks' gestational age group.

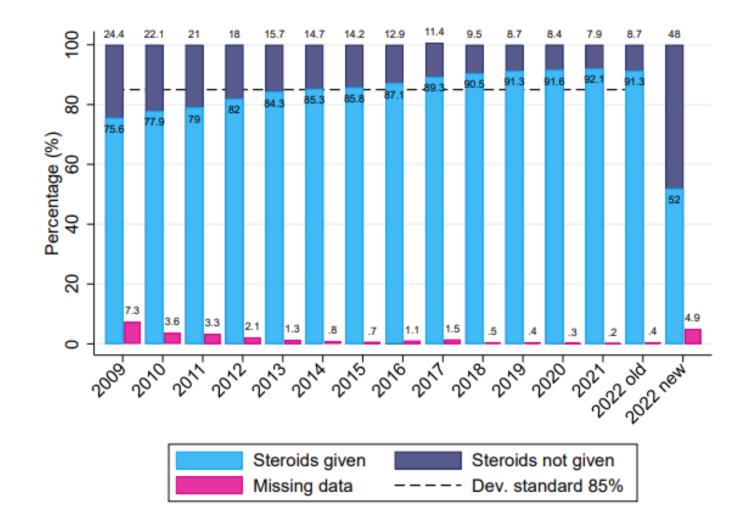
https://www.hqip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Ref.-421-MNI-perinatal-surveillance-Report-FINAL.pdf

Results

Figure 19. Administration of antenatal steroids, according to the contemporaneous NNAP measurement criteria, by NNAP reporting year (2009 to 2022).

Optimally Timed Antenatal Steroids

NNAP 2022 released 14 Sept 2023





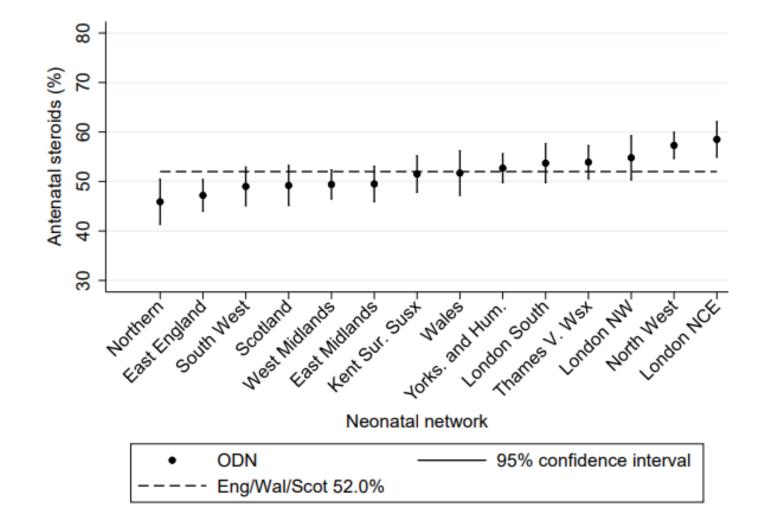
Optimally Timed Antenatal Steroids

Figure 20. Caterpillar plot of the proportions of administration of antenatal steroids, by neonatal network or operational delivery network (ODN).

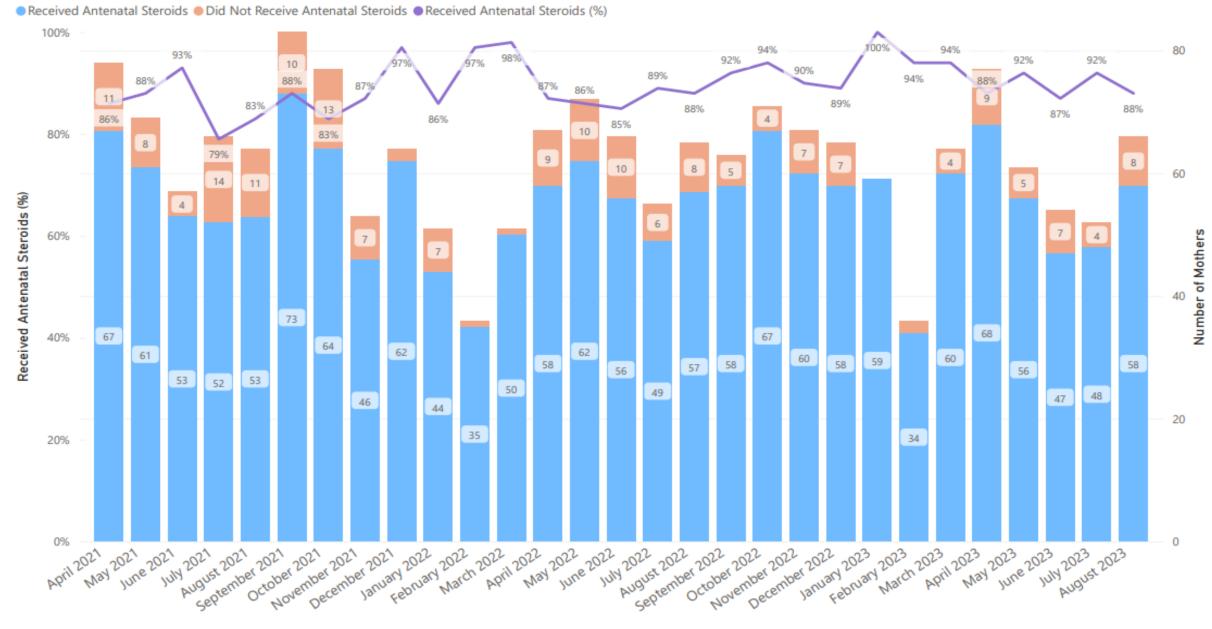
Network proportions are represented by dots. The 95% confidence intervals for a network are shown by a vertical line with each dot. Full results are available on NNAP Online.

NNAP 2022 released 14 Sept 2023

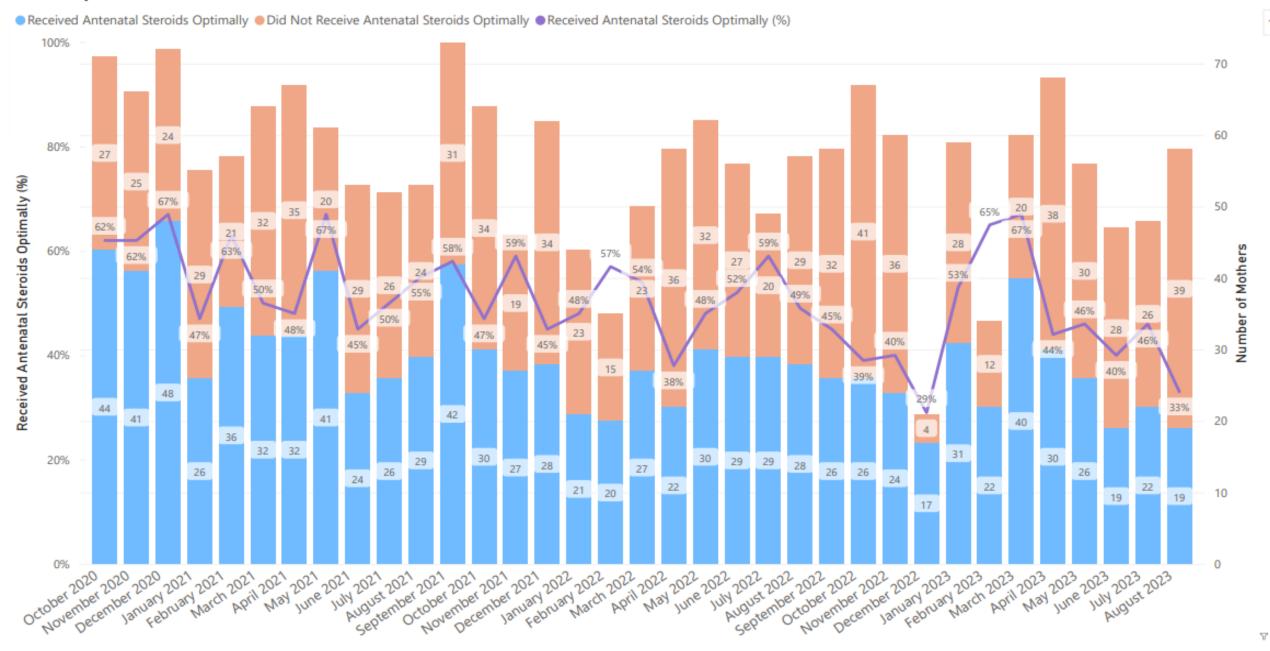




How many babies' mothers received ANY antenatal steroids?



How many babies' mothers were administered antenatal steroids OPTIMALLY?





ANTENATAL British Association of Perinatal Medicine **STEROIDS**



FOR ALL BABIES BORN <34 WEEKS

If expected to give birth WITHIN 7 days AND haven't had steroids within the last 2 weeks (including >22 weeks gestation if survival-focused care planned) Aim to give an optimally timed full course





dea

Aim to give an optimally timed full course (2 doses 12-24 hours apart)

1-7 days before birth







23-24 weeks

25 weeks



Roberts et al 2017, Travers et al 2017



www.bapm.org/pop

www.weahsn.net/periprem



Optimisation of the Preterm Infant Improving the timing and administration of antenatal corticosteroids

Lawrence Impey, Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine, Oxford University Hospitals & Clinical Lead Maternity Network Health Innovation Oxford & TV

Michelle East, Director of Midwifery, Buckinghamshire Healthcare & Midwifery CIL, MatNeo SIP

Eileen Dudley MatNeo SIP Lead, Health Innovation Oxford & TV

Tuesday November 14th, 2023



Background

National ambition to reduce the rates of maternal and neonatal deaths, stillbirths and brain injuries by 50% by 2025

Optimisation and stabilisation of the preterm infant is one of the workstreams that supports delivery of this ambition

The Ambition:

To support an increase the proportion of women less than 34 +0 weeks with TPTL receiving a full course of antenatal corticosteroids within one week prior to delivery to 95% or greater by March 2023

The Challenge:

Gerard H. A Visser, Chair FIGO Committee Safe Motherhood & Newborn Health (2017)

'Antenatal corticosteroids: poison with some positive side effects' 'So, only use it with wisdom and only if really indicated'



National ambition



Benefits v harm





How it all began and what is already known

- Prof Liggins (Obstetrician Auckland 1969)
- Noted that preterm lambs were born alive and breathing with lungs that wound inflate
- Profs Liggins and Howie randomised trial (DB) 1969-72
 preterm human babies had fewer cases of RDS and infant mortality if mothers received corticosteroids
 (greatest benefit if <7 days)</p>

J. Endocr. (1969), 45, 515-523 With 1 plate Printed in Great Britain 515

PREMATURE DELIVERY OF FOETAL LAMBS INFUSED WITH GLUCOCORTICOIDS

G. C. LIGGINS

Postgraduate School of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

(Received 14 April 1969)

CHMMADY

Dexamethasone caused premature delivery when infused into foetal lambs at rates of 0-06-4-0 mg./24 hr, but it had no effect when administered to pregnant ewes at the rate of 4-0 mg./24 hr. Infusions into the foetus of deoxycorticosterone or corticosterone were ineffective; mixtures of dexamethasone and deoxycorticosterone did not cause parturition more rapidly than dexamethasone alone. Thus, the ability of corticosteroids to cause permature parturition appears to depend on glucocorticoid rather than mineralocorticoid activity.

Parturition induced by dexamethasone was not delayed by administration of 100 mg. progesterone/24 hr. to the ewe or to the foetus. This suggests either that withdrawal of inhibitory effects of progesterone on the myometrium can occur independently of the progesterone concentration in peripheral plasma, or that the mechanism of parturition provoked by corticosteroids in the foetus can override any regulatory influence of progesterone on myometrial contractility.

Partial aeration of the lungs was observed in lambs born vaginally at 117–123 days of gestation after receiving dexamethasone. It is suggested that this may be the result of accelerated appearance of surfactant activity.

INTRODUCTION

The onset of parturition in the cwe has been shown to be profoundly influenced by the foetus (Liggins, 1968). Destruction of the foetal pituitary or hypothalamus leads to marked prolongation of gestation (Liggins, Kennedy & Holm, 1967) and conversely, stimulation of the foetal adrenals by corticotrophin (ACTH) or infusion of cortisol into the foetal leads to premature parturition (Liggins, 1968). Thus it appears likely that the foetal lamb affects myometrial contractility through a pathway which includes the foetal hypothalamus, pituitary and adrenals, and that the activity of the adrenal cortex in this particular function is mediated by a corticosteroid. However, the means by which a corticosteroid in the foetus may influence the myometrium remains obscure.

Cortisol has both mineralocorticoid and glucocorticoid activity. The present experiments were designed to determine which of these components was responsible

Endoc. 45, 4

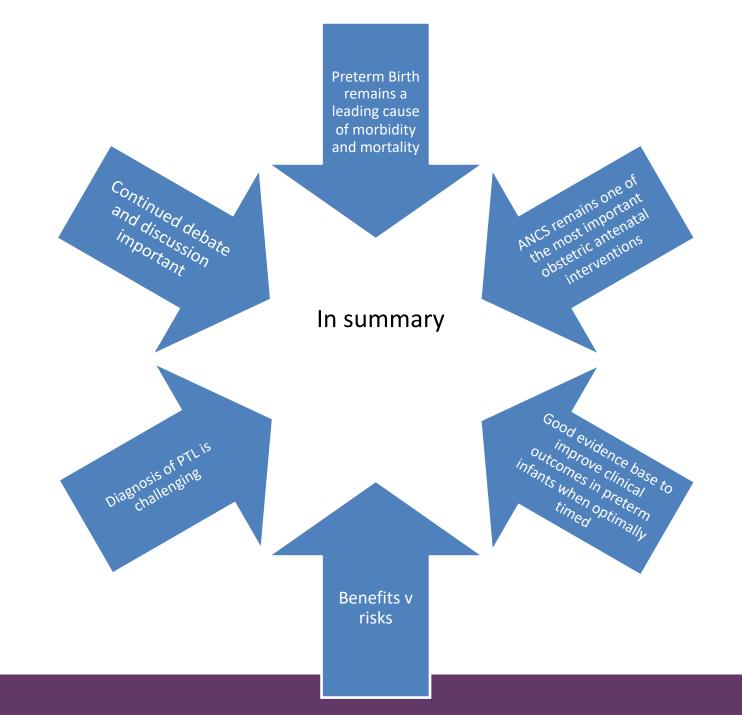


Prediction of preterm birth

- Preterm birth history alone: 10-57% of pregnant women with a PTB
 history will give birth preterm. Most women who give birth preterm do
 not have a history of preterm birth.
- QUiPP App: Using a 5% chance of birth, predicts PTB in next 7d in women
 <37w and avoids 90% of admissions
- qfFN: Predicts PTB <30w in singleton/multiple pregnancy
- Combination of Cervical Length and qfFN: Addition of cervical length refines predictive ability of qfFN and may save €480 per patient

- Benefits
- Reduce death by 30%
- Reduce NEC by 50%
- Reduces IVH by 45%
- One more baby surviving for every 8-10 women treated
- Adverse effects
- ↑ risk of neonatal hypoglycaemia an established risk factor for long term childhood neurological sequelae is more common
- Developmental delay (late preterm and early term)
- Two-fold risk of behavioural problems in children at term
- WHO recommends against giving steroids where 'chorioamnionitis' is suspected. However, this is based on data from low/middle income countries. Given frequency of chorioamnionitis, usually subclinical, with preterm birth this appears to contradict data from populations more relevant to the UK (footnote 8 in guideline)
- Maternal sepsis: consider omission: ensure adequate resuscitation & IVABS given first. Birth must not be delayed to allow steroids 'to work'

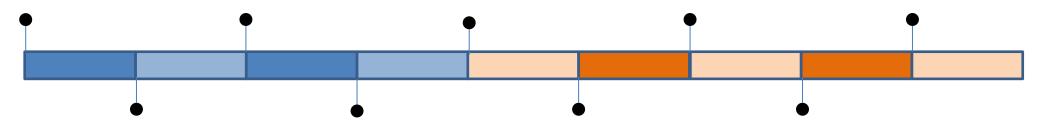




Maternity and Neonatal

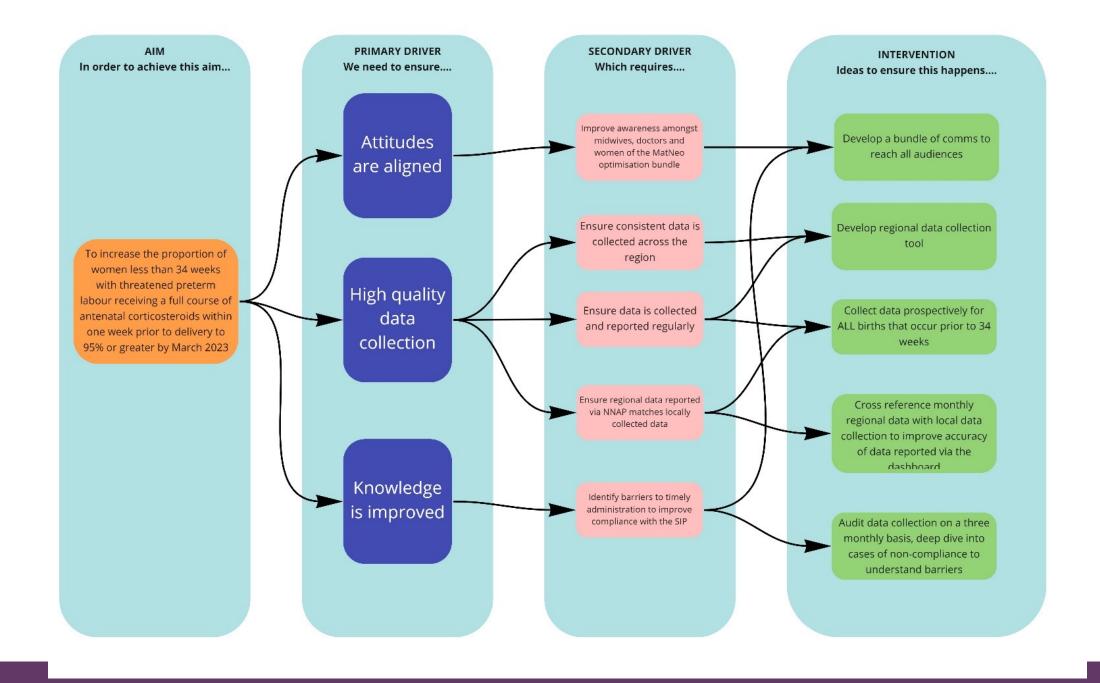
Feb 2021:

PSN meeting: discussion on the timing and administration of ANCS and variation in clinical practice within our own network.



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Task & Finish Group established & agreed the data collection proforma-inclusion criteria for the QIP to concentrate on ANCS 23+0 and 34+0 completed weeks. Retrospective (Jan – March 21)



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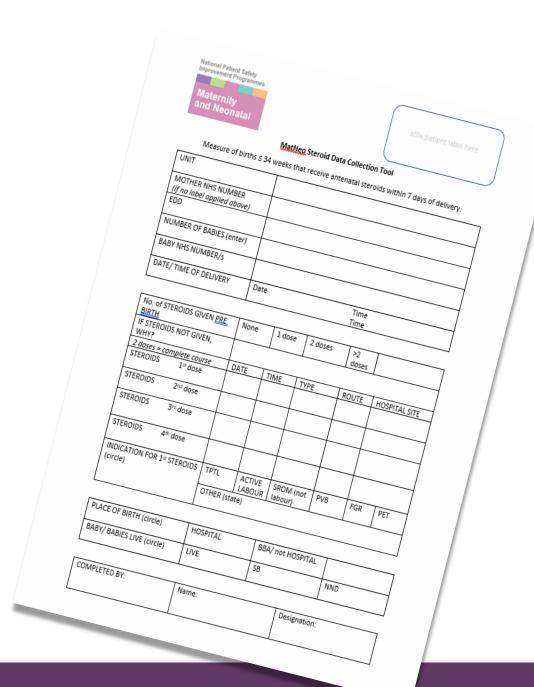
Bundle of interventions shared with our trusts: Call for action with narrative from our Clinical Lead Data collection proforma Poster for clinical areas.



We are participating in the MatNeo safety improvement programme for antenatal steroid

- A complete course of steroids reduces mortality by 30% in infants less than This is why...
- Optimum timing is within 7 days of birth, with the course completed 24 Steroid administration reduces RDS, IVH and NEC • Currently only 22% of women who give birth <34 weeks receive steroids in
- Mortality benefits remain, even when steroids are given 6-12 hours before
- Repeated courses reduce respiratory morbidity but does not reduce
- Focus on accurate predication of birth for more precise timing of antenatal
- Source: BAPM antenatal optimisation toolkit steroids to avoid repeated courses

If you would like to know more about this project, your local Launch date: contacts are: 1st November 2021 Regional contacts: eileen.dudley@oxfordahsn.org www.improvement.nhs.uk michelle.east1@nhs.net MatPatSIP | @MatNeoSIP



Maternity and Neonatal

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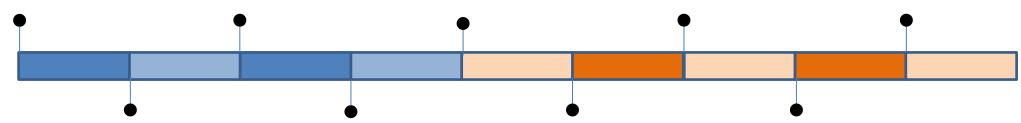
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May 2022:

Interim report for ANCS administration was shared with each trust /Posters & certificates of participation .



Regional Audit (Thames Valley) of antenatal corticosteroid administration against the MatNeoSIP ambition

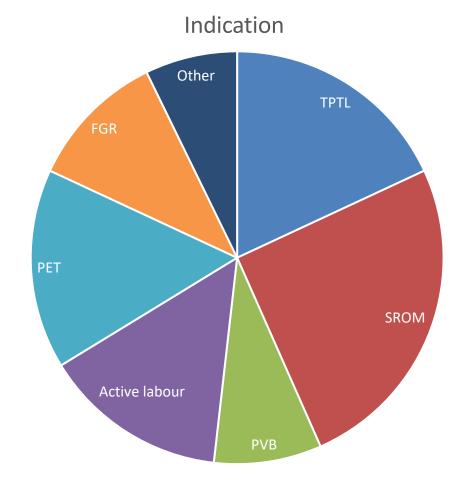
- November-2021-March 2022
- 83 births
- 95% of women received steroids
- Only 73% a complete course
- Only 43% of all had steroids within 7 days of birth < 34 weeks gestation
- Steroids prior to planned iatrogenic preterm birth account for approx. 25% of all women
- Repeat courses unusual



Findings

Inconsistent guidance across the network:

- Betamethasone vs Dexamethasone
- Route of administration



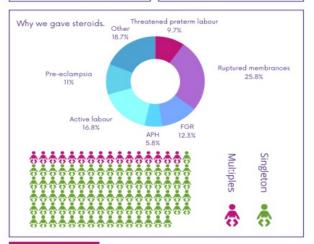


DID YOU KNOW?

The most common reason for administering steroids before 34 weeks in our region was spontaneous rupture of membranes. Overall 56% women received steroids within 7 days of birth (taking into consideration women that had no steroids or just one dose).

ALSO..

Giving steroids within 7 days of preterm birth reduces the risk of perinatal 8 neonatal death and respiratory distress syndrome. However, giving steroids after 37 weeks increases the risk of neonatal hypoglycaemia and potential developmental delay.



NEXT STEPS...

Get in touch.

Use the QR code for more information about how we will be seeking to improve the process around the decision making for steroids.







and Neonat

Certificate of participation in the MatNeo SIP
Oxford AHSN/PSC Regional Antenatal Corticosteroids
Task & Finish Group

This is to certify that

supported a Thames Valley network wide quality improvement initiative to improve the timing and administration of antenatal corticosteroids in women at risk of preterm birth.

April 22nd 2022

Eleen Judy

Eileen Dudley
MatNeo SIP Programme Lead Oxford AHSN

Michelle East

MatNeo SIP Midwife Clinical Improvement Lead

National Patient Safety Improvement Programmes



MATERNITY AND NEONATAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Antenatal Corticosteroid Workstream Interim Report

Michelle East and Eileen Dudley – May 2022 michelle.east1@nhs.net/eileen.dudley@oxfordahsn.org

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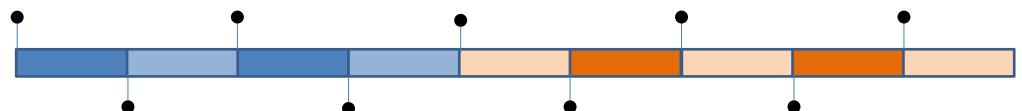
PSN meeting Data results presented; proposed interventions agreed

June 2022:

PSN meeting; focus now on the guideline development.

Nov 2022:

Guideline discussion with national stakeholders Dev of resources to support implementation & adoption



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August 2022:

Prof Andy Shennan Webinar -The use and misuse of antenatal steroids

APPROPRIATE USE OF STEROIDS IN PRETERM BIRTH QUiPP Steroids are beneficial to babies if birth occurs between 1-7 days after administration Even one course outside of 7 days causes harm (lower birth weight and head circumference). We must time the use steroids appropriately. 70% of women that present with symptoms of threatened preterm labour will give birth at term The QUiPP app must be used for ALL women that present with thretened preterm labour Use of the QUiPP app with Quantitative Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) measurement can improve prediction of preterm birth, Download the QUiPP app here: reduce inappropriate admission and support decisions regarding transfer for



- Withhold steroids unless very likely to deliver soon (far more babies receive a therapeutic dose, and it will limit harm)
- Use clinical acumen and biomarkers to assist risk assessment (QUIPP APP uses medical history, quantitative Fetal Fibronectin result and /or cervical length)
- When possible, give no more than 48 hours in advance
- A single 'repeat course' should be considered if > 7 days since first course, and birth < less than 30 weeks is planned or *highly likely* to be < 7 days (footnote 9 in guideline)
- Caution about use after 35 weeks (NNT high! Lifelong insult vs short term gain)
- WHO recommends against giving steroids where 'chorioamnionitis' is suspected. However, this is based on data from low/middle income countries. Given frequency of chorioamnionitis, usually subclinical, with preterm birth this appears to contradict data from populations more relevant to the UK
- Maternal sepsis: consider omission: ensure adequate resuscitation and IVABs given first. Birth must not be delayed to allow steroids 'to work'
- Dose: 12mg betamethasone or dexamethasone, repeated 24 hours later. Only repeat earlier (at 12 hours) if birth likely < 24 hours of first dose









extreme preterm infants.





Oxford AHSN maternity network guideline to maximise the chance of steroids within 7 days of preterm birth: singletons & multiple births

1. 22+31-34+6 weeks: indications for recommending 2:

Threatened PTL: If QUiPP 3 app suggests >5% risk of birth < 7days.

If clinically in active labour (cx effaced and regular, painful contractions)

Preterm SROM: If confirmed by speculum

If good history and POC test + (not if poor history 4 of SROM and POC test +)

FGR/PET<34w: If <32w: at diagnosis of AREDF 5 (deliver by 32w)

or abnormal antenatal CTG (decelerations or STV<46)

If 32+0-34+6: if umbA >95th c and EFW <3rd c 7

<1 week before birth if planned <34+6 weeks

Other: Maternal sepsis: consider omission: ensure adequate resuscitation and IV

antibiotics given first 8. Birth must not be delayed to allow steroids 'to work'

Consider if other serious maternal illness, admitted for severe pre-eclampsia

(beware pulmonary oedema)

Bulging membranes; significant PVB, severe abdominal pain etc

<1 week before any planned CS <34+6 weeks

>7 days since steroids: A single 'repeat course' should be considered if > 7 days since first course, if

birth <30+0 is planned or highly likely to be <7 days 9. The risks/ benefits

should be discussed with the parents. Consultant-level decision

recommended.

Oxford AHSN maternity network guideline to maximise the chance of steroids within 7 days of preterm birth: singletons & multiple births

2. >34+6 <37+0: recommend steroids if:10

Fetal lung issue: Specifically, fetal lung abnormality/cardiac problem likely to cause lung

issues. Give for all indications as above (i.e. if birth anticipated at <37+0 in

<7 days)

Pre-labour CS, <37+0: <1 week before any planned CS <37+0 weeks

Other indications: (i.e. all above: section 1 and birth anticipated at <37+0 in <7 days.)

Recommend RCOG based decision tool⁸ for all above indications and only

give if parents request.

>7 days since steroids repeat not advised

3. >36+6<39+0 weeks: recommend steroids If ¹⁰:

Fetal lung issue: Specifically, fetal lung abnormality/cardiac problem likely to cause lung

issues. Give for all indications (i.e. if birth anticipated at <39+0 in <7 days)

Other indications: Not advised

>7 days since steroids repeat not advised

Oxford AHSN maternity network guideline to maximise the chance of steroids within 7 days o preterm birth: singletons & multiple births

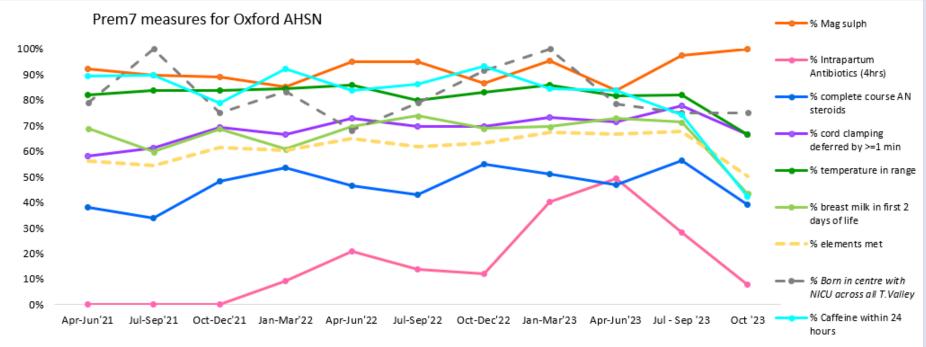
Notes:

- Wait for 22+3
- From 22+3 weeks-26+6 weeks (or twins 27+6 weeks or any EFW <800g) IUT to Level 3 NNU advised if criteria for steroids met. Also consider MgSO4 if birth likely <12 hours.
- QUIPP app ('symptomatic' part) has better sensitivity and specificity: meaning better timing. Needs
 quantitative fetal fibronectin +/- TVS cervix. https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/quipp/id964256400.
 Cervical scan results improve prediction but is not mandatory.
- False positive rates of POC tests can be high.
- AREDF usually lasts for several days before there is decompensation particularly in more preterm fetuses. Note steroids may be followed by temporary return of EDF
- Delivery likely within 48 hours if present and AEDF not always present before decompensation. STV
 3 a criterion for delivery <24 hours under most circumstances
- At this gestation AREDF is indication for birth: these criteria suggest high risk of birth <7 days
- WHO recommendation against giving steroids where 'chorioamnionitis'. Based on data from non-high
 income countries. Given frequency of chorioamnionitis, usually subclinical, with preterm birth this
 appears to contradict data from populations more relevant to the UK.
- This is controversial but given increased mortality risk without steroids, benefits probably > risks,
 particularly at extreme preterm gestations.
 https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002771&type=printable
 - nttps://journals.pios.org/piosmedicine/article/file/id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002771&type=printab
 - e. 30 weeks was chosen as corresponding to average gestation in most trials' participants.
- At this gestation steroids reduces <u>RDS</u> but this should be set against the risk of hypoglycaemia and probable long term issues in the child. https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1471-0528.17027.

Preterm Optimisation

Select Organisation

AHSN Oxford



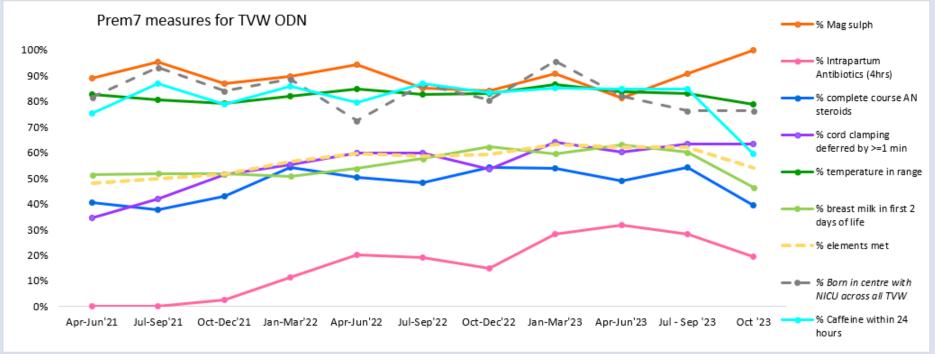
	Gest-	Apr-	Jul-	Oct-	Jan-	Apr-	Jul-	Oct-	Jan-	Apr-	Jul - Sep	
	ation	Jun'21	Sep'21	Dec'21	Mar'22	Jun'22	Sep'22	Dec'22	Mar'23	Jun'23	'23	Oct '23
Babies <34 weeks admitted to nnu	<34	148	129	144	125	148	138	145	115	122	143	30
Prem7 Measures (charted above)												
% complete course AN steroids	<34	38%	34%	48%	54%	47%	43%	55%	51%	47%	56%	39%
% Mag sulph	<30	92%	90%	89%	85%	95%	95%	87%	95%	84%	97%	100%
% Intrapartum Antibiotics (4hrs)	<34 ^x	0%	0%	0%	9%	21%	14%	12%	40%	49%	28%	8%
% cord clamping deferred by >=1 min	<34	58%	61%	69%	66%	73%	70%	70%	73%	71%	78%	67%
% temperature in range	<34	82%	84%	84%	85%	86%	80%	83%	86%	82%	82%	67%
% breast milk in first 2 days of life	<34	69%	60%	69%	61%	70%	74%	69%	70%	73%	71%	43%
% elements met	<34	56%	55%	61%	60%	65%	62%	63%	67%	67%	68%	50%
% Born in centre with NICU across all T.V	<27 ⁺	79%	100%	75%	83%	68%	79%	92%	100%	79%	75%	75%
% Caffeine within 24 hours	<30 ⁺	90%	90%	79%	92%	84%	86%	93%	84%	84%	74%	42%

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 YTD
546	546	295
43%	49%	51%
89%	93%	93%
2%	21%	36%
64%	71%	74%
83%	84%	81%
65%	71%	69%
58%	64%	65%
84%	83%	77%
87%	87%	74%

Preterm Optimisation

Select Organisation

ODN TVW



	Gest-	Apr-	Jul-	Oct-	Jan-	Apr-	Jul-	Oct-	Jan-	Apr-	Jul - Sep	
	ation	Jun'21	Sep'21	Dec'21	Mar'22	Jun'22	Sep'22	Dec'22	Mar'23	Jun'23	'23	Oct '23
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% breast milk in first 2 days of life	<34	51%	52%	52%	51%	54%	58%	62%	60%	63%	60%	46%
% elements met	<34	48%	50%	52%	56%	60%	59%	59%	63%	62%	62%	54%
% Born in centre with NICU across all TV	<27 ⁺	82%	93%	84%	89%	72%	86%	80%	96%	82%	76%	76%
% Caffeine within 24 hours	<30 ⁺	75%	87%	79%	86%	80%	87%	83%	85%	85%	85%	59%

		2023/24
2021/22	2022/23	YTD
1027	988	575
44%	51%	50%
90%	89%	88%
3%	20%	28%
45%	59%	62%
81%	84%	83%
51%	58%	60%
51%	60%	61%
86%	82%	79%
82%	84%	81%

For our network: What is your role and how can you help?

Read the Oxford AHSN Maternity Network guideline-be familiar with the evidence

When in triage and the antenatal ward seeing someone in TPTL use the QUiPP APP to calculate the risk of premature labour

Be a champion for implementation of the network guidance by Speaking to colleagues who see women and who do not use the QUiPP APP to raise their awareness

Reminding your consultant colleagues that we are using the network agreed guideline, especially when you can evidence that the woman could have been safely discharged without steroids rather than being admitted and receiving steroids

Shared decision making with parents supported by a Patient Information Leaflet



Next Steps

- Regional guideline roll out with alongside teaching and education
- Re-audit once fFn available

Useful resources:













Preterm Birth Optimisation Podcast available to listen to:



Professor Andrew Shennan



Oxford AHSN Regional Guideline



Optimisation of the Preterm Infant







Any Questions







Break







Regional Update







Closing







Preparing for the next Share and Learn

Early Breast Milk: Weds 6th February 14:00 – 16:00











Thanks to:









Thank you

Please share your

feedback:







