



Royal College
of Midwives



MIDIRS Search Packs

MIDIRS Search Packs are pre-made literature searches on popular topics and contain comprehensive bibliographic lists and article abstracts.

For further information about our Search Packs please contact us at midirs.helpdesk@rcm.org.uk.

Breastfeeding

General

Influences

Practical issues

Problems

Promotion and support

Labour and birth

Complications

General

Management and interventions

Monitoring

Pain and pain relief

Maternity services

Ethical and legal issues

General

Organisation of care

Place of birth

Special needs

Midwifery

Education, training and professional development

Employment issues

International midwifery

Midwifery care

Midwifery management

Professional issues

Neonatal care

Adverse outcome

Complications

General

Neonatal care

Neonatal intensive care

Screening

Postnatal care

Adverse outcome

Complications

General

Maternal care

Psychological aspects

Pregnancy

Adverse outcome

Antenatal care

Antenatal health

Complementary therapies

Complications

General

Health education

Infections

Screening

Social and psychological aspects

Women with medical conditions

Breastfeeding

General

PN120	Breastfeeding: weight gain in infants
PN123	Economic advantages of breastfeeding
PN124	Exclusive breastfeeding
PN126	Breastfeeding: rates and trends
PN132	Weaning: introduction to solid food
PN158	Physiology of breastfeeding and lactation
PN187	Feeding the premature infant
PN55	The advantages of breastfeeding for the baby
PN61	Contraceptive effects of breastfeeding (lactational amenorrhoea)
PN62	Longterm breastfeeding
PN65	Complementary, supplementary feeds
PN85	Diet and nutrition whilst breastfeeding
PN93	Teenagers breastfeeding: attitudes, complications, promotion
PN97	Breastfeeding: the advantages for the mother

Influences

PN113	Breastfeeding in public places
PN143	Breastfeeding and socioeconomic status
PN4	The decision to breastfeed
PN49	Partners and breastfeeding
PN53	Marketing infant formula
PN63	Breastfeeding: professional attitudes, beliefs and knowledge

Practical Issues

PN31	Breastfeeding and working mothers
PN50	Expressing breast milk
PN56	Milk banks and milk banking
PN58	Cup and spoon feeding
PN64	Positioning the baby for breastfeeding
PN92	Breastfeeding twins, triplets or more
PN150	Safety and hygiene relating to infant nutrition

Problems

PN32	Mastitis
PN36	Suppression of lactation
PN38	Substances in breast milk
PN48	Engorgement
PN6	Nipple problems
PN66	Insufficient milk
PN77	Breastfeeding following breast surgery
PN86	Prescribed drugs whilst breastfeeding
PN9	HIV and breastfeeding
PN94	Breastfeeding the adopted baby
PN98	Nipple shields
PN129	Breastfeeding: diabetic mothers
PN162	Breast abscesses

Promotion and support

P35	Antenatal preparation for breastfeeding
PN101	Breastfeeding immediately following birth
PN114	Role of breastfeeding counsellors/lactation consultants
PN148	Breastfeeding after caesarean section
PN45	Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
PN5	Midwives and healthcare professionals: role in breastfeeding promotion and support
PN90	Peer support and support groups for breastfeeding
PN91	Hospital policies/procedures that affect breastfeeding
PN96	Breastfeeding: why do women give up?

Labour and birth

Complications

L17	Shoulder dystocia
L21	Vaginal birth after caesarean section
L28	Premature rupture of the membranes at term
L29	Female genital mutilation
L3	Breech (not twins)
L31	Twin delivery
L42	Cord prolapse
L43	Occipito-posterior position
L44	Retained placenta
L47	Fetal distress
L55	Third- and fourth-degree tears
L61	Obesity in labour
L66	Obstetrics anal sphincter injury
L67	Maternal birth injuries
L68	Born before arrival
L8	Meconium
PN145	Birth injuries
PN192	Postpartum haemorrhage: prevention
PN29	Postpartum haemorrhage
L69	Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Labour, birth and intrapartum care

General

L13	Position and ambulation in labour
L2	Birth plans
L25	Support/company in labour
L33	Fathers/partners at the birth
L34	Siblings at the birth
L35	Birth chairs & stools
L4	Communication in labour
L48	Squatting in labour

L49	Spontaneous onset of labour
L54	Women's experiences of labour
L60	Birth environment
L62	Cultural or religious birth and death rituals and practices
L71	Racial differences and disparities in labour and birth

Management and interventions

L1	Amniotomy
L14	Prostaglandins for induction of labour/cervical ripening
L15	Pushing and bearing down
L16	Second stage management
L18	Suturing the perineum
L19	Third stage management (includes expectant management)
L24	Induction of labour/cervical ripening
L30	Forceps and vacuum
L38	Active management of labour
L45	Caesarean section: rates, increase, trends
L50	Vulval cleansing in labour
L51	Forceps and vacuum: maternal outcome
L52	Guarding the perineum/preventing tears
L53	Caesarean section: caesarean by choice
L56	HIV: prevention of vertical transmission in labour
L57	Caesarean section: antibiotic prophylaxis
L6	Episiotomy and perineal management
L7	Nutrition and hydration in labour

Monitoring

L26	Examining and weighing the placenta
L36	Partograms
L39	Fetal scalp electrodes
L40	Intermittent auscultation versus continuous fetal monitoring
L5	Electronic fetal monitoring
P142	Fetal pulse oximetry
L63	ST analysis (STAN)

Pain and pain relief

L10	Epidurals
L11	Drug free pain relief in labour
L12	TENS
L20	Water birth
L22	Drugs for pain relief
L37	Epidurals: postnatal effects
L41	Pethidine
L46	Drugs in labour: effects on breastfeeding
L58	Caesarean section: anaesthesia and analgesia
L59	Entonox, nitrous oxide and gas and air
L9	Women's perceptions of pain and pain relief
L64	Water as pain relief

Maternity services

Ethical and legal issues

M18	Legal issues
M19	Ethical issues
M67	Confidentiality
MS15	Informed consent
MS64	Assisted reproduction
MS65	Surrogacy
MS66	Sex selection
MS67	Maternal-fetal rights
MS68	Court ordered obstetrical interventions
MS69	Effects and long term outcomes of assisted reproduction on offspring
MS71	Disrespect and abuse in childbirth

General

CT3	UK statistics: published sources
M53	Feminism/gender issues in midwifery and maternity care
MS23	Audit: theory
MS24	Audit: examples
MS37	Maternity Services Liaison Committees
MS39	Risk management
MS40	UK government publications
MS43	Clinical governance
MS49	Complementary therapies (general)
MS50	Control of childbirth
MS52	Physiological labour and birth
MS9	Medicalisation of childbirth
MS62	Social media and the maternity health care professional
MS72	Birth outside of guidelines
MS75	Culturally sensitive maternity care

Organisation of care

M76	Shared/collaborative care
MS14	Winterton Report
MS18	Antenatal day care
MS26	Hospital security/tagging
MS32	Informed choice
MS36	Changing Childbirth
MS44	Primary care groups and trusts
MS45	Woman-centred care
MS47	Informed choice: key references from the MIDIRS Informed Choice initiative
MS6	Neonatal intensive care: the costs
MS60	Digital midwifery
MS73	Telemedicine
MS4	General Practitioners (GPs) – role in maternity care
MS8	Transitional care
PN8	Early discharge/length of stay

Place of birth

MS17	Birth centres
MS29	Home birth: choice and control
MS5	Home birth: safety
MS61	Home birth: protocols & guidelines

Special needs

MS1	Antenatal education for teenagers
MS20	Women in prison or detention centres
MS25	Homeless women
MS28	Services for of drug abusing women
MS30	Women who are deaf/hearing impaired
MS31	Women who are blind/visually impaired
MS38	Women with learning disabilities
MS41	LGBTQ+ parents

MS46	Child protection and safeguarding, child abuse and neglect
MS48	Refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people
MS51	Teenage pregnancy: prevention
MS53	Jehovah's Witnesses
MS54	Women with mental health disorders
MS76	Gypsies, Roma and Travellers
P5	Women with a physical disability

Midwifery

Education, training and professional development

M23	Preceptors and mentors
M24	Research: the value of
M25	Research: how to do it
M26	Student midwives
M36	Learning and teaching methods
M37	Assessing student midwives
M38	Assessing midwives (competency, peer review, appraisal)
M39	Reflective practice
M4	Pre-registration education
M5	Continuing professional development (CPD)
M54	Evidence-based practice
M59	Research: critical appraisal
M60	Research: statistical methods
M61	Research: ethical issues
M65	Decision making/problem solving
M66	Advanced/higher level practice
M70	Counselling skills for midwives
M71	Consultant midwives
M78	Research: qualitative methods
M79	Writing for publication
M88	Simulation-based training
M90	Revalidation
M97	Newly qualified midwives

Employment issues

M10	Stress and burnout in midwifery
M14	Retention and recruitment of midwives
M15	Job Satisfaction
M40	Occupational health and safety
M41	Stress and burnout in the NICU
M52	Job sharing/part-time working
M58	Shifts and rotas

M6	Standard infection control precautions
M72	Workplace culture
M75	Return to practice
M91	Coping and resilience in midwifery
M95	Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the midwife
M99	Pay and employment benefits

International midwifery

M22	Traditional birth attendants
M42	Midwifery in the USA
M43	Midwifery in Canada
M44	Midwifery in Australia
M45	Midwifery in the Netherlands
M46	Midwifery in New Zealand
M47	Midwifery in Western Europe
M48	Midwifery in Eastern Europe
M49	Midwifery in Central and South America
M50	Midwifery in Africa
M74	Midwifery in Asia
M81	Reproductive health services in developing countries
M84	Maternal morbidity: rates and trends in high-resource countries
M85	Midwifery in the Middle East

Midwifery care

M20	Independent midwifery in the United Kingdom
M28	Midwife led care
M29	Integrated midwifery
M3	Continuity of care
M34	Caseload/one-to-one midwifery
M35	Group practice midwifery
M73	Care pathways
M8	Models of care
M87	Rural midwifery

Midwifery management

M21	Supervision of midwives
M32	Managing change
M77	Leadership

Professional issues

M16	Men in midwifery
M2	Autonomy and accountability
M31	Extended role of the midwife
M33	Record keeping
M57	Maternity support workers and health care assistants
M63	Childfree midwives/midwives who are mothers
M64	Communication/relations with other health professionals
M69	Public health and the midwife
M7	History and development of midwifery
M80	Liability insurance for midwives
M9	Role and status of midwives
M82	Clinical negligence
M83	Professional organisations
M96	Institutional racism
M98	Psychological safety
M100	Specialist midwives
M101	Neurodiversity in midwifery
M102	Artificial intelligence in midwifery and obstetrics
M104	Royal College of Midwives

Neonatal care

Adverse outcome

PN125	Sudden infant death: smoking
PN127	Infant mortality worldwide
PN180	Infant mortality in Africa
PN181	Infant mortality in Asia
PN182	Infant mortality in Australia and New Zealand
PN183	Infant mortality in Central and South America
PN184	Infant mortality in Europe
PN185	Infant mortality in North America
PN23	Sudden infant death: physiology
PN43	Sudden infant death: sleeping position
PN51	Sudden infant death: environmental factors

Complications

PN10	Jaundice and phototherapy
PN104	Retinopathy of prematurity
PN107	Fetal alcohol syndrome
PN110	Cerebral palsy: causes, diagnosis and management
PN121	Chronic lung disease
PN130	Ankyloglossia (tongue tie)
PN133	Talipes
PN134	Congenital heart disease
PN135	Neonatal anaemia
PN136	Otitis media
PN137	Asthma in infancy
PN138	Allergies in infancy
PN14	Pain in the infant
PN141	Pneumonia in infancy
PN142	Patent ductus arteriosus
PN144	Hypoxia
PN147	Kidney function and diseases in infancy
PN149	Malaria in infancy
PN151	Mechanical ventilation

PN153	Gastroesophageal reflux
PN154	MRSA
PN21	HIV infection in neonate
PN37	Respiratory distress syndrome
PN39	Cleft lip and palate
PN40	Congenital hip displacement
PN42	PKU in the neonate
PN78	Meningitis
PN88	Necrotising enterocolitis ³
PN193	Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the infant

General

PN140	Infant development (Cognitive)
PN191	Infant cognitive development: motor skills
PN195	Racial differences and disparities in infant health outcomes

Neonatal care

PN106	Cord blood collection and banking
PN111	Colic
PN131	Infant vaccination
PN139	Infant growth
PN165	Infant development (Physical)
PN166	Infant development (Effect of parents)
PN188	Infant vaccination in the United Kingdom
PN189	Measles vaccination in infants
PN19	Suctioning the neonate
PN190	Polio vaccine in infants
PN20	Vitamin K
PN30	Temperature measurement and control
PN41	Crying babies
PN44	Hypoglycaemia and glucose levels in the neonate
PN7	Cord care
PN79	Dummies/pacifiers
PN80	Co-sleeping/sharing a bed
PN81	Nappies and nappy rash

PN82	Nappies: reusable vs disposable
PN83	Skin care of the newborn
PN87	Neonatal circumcision
PN89	Cord clamping
PN199	Premature and low birth weight infants: growth outcomes
PN200	Premature and low birth weight infants: mental health outcomes

Neonatal intensive care

MS11	Ethical issues in neonatal intensive care
PN108	Transporting the neonate
PN11	Prematurity and low birth weight: survival and short term outcome
PN112	Developmental care in the NICU
PN117	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
PN119	Surfactant therapy
PN12	The environment in the NICU
PN13	Effects of neonatal intensive care on the parents
PN146	Infant catheterisation
PN164	Premature and low birth weight babies: long term survival, health and general outcomes
PN170	Premature and low birth weight babies: development of motor skills
PN171	Premature and low birth weight babies: speech, language and auditory development
PN172	Premature and low birth weight babies: long-term outcome at school
PN22	Kangaroo care
PN3	Breastfeeding the baby in intensive care
PN46	Neonatal massage, touch, stroking
PN54	Positioning the neonate
PN71	Enteral and parenteral nutrition
PN72	Infection control in the neonatal intensive care unit
PN73	Neonatal resuscitation
PN74	Neonatal resuscitation: teaching parents
PN75	Premature and low birth weight babies: long term neurodevelopmental/intellectual outcome

Screening

L32	Apgar score
PN100	Heel prick: methods and pain management
PN103	Hearing tests
PN186	Newborn blood spot screening
PN70	Routine examination of the newborn
PN84	HIV screening in the neonate

Postnatal care

Adverse outcome

PN1	Perinatal bereavement (not miscarriage)
PN163	Medication errors (infant)
PN173	Morbidity and mortality of minoritised ethnicity women
PN174	Maternal mortality in Africa
PN175	Maternal mortality in Australia and New Zealand
PN176	Maternal mortality in Europe
PN177	Maternal mortality in North America
PN178	Maternal mortality in Central and South America
PN179	Maternal mortality in Asia
PN33	Maternal mortality worldwide
PN52	Safe Motherhood Initiative

Complications

P116	Long term effects of pregnancy and childbirth on women's health
PN105	Caesarean section: maternal outcome
PN122	Obstetric fistulae
PN156	Autism
PN18	Sex and sexual difficulties after childbirth
PN34	Incontinence and pelvic floor damage
PN194	Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Postnatal health and care
PN201	Gestational diabetes: postnatal screening and follow-up

General

PN152	Seasonality of birth
PN160	Parenting: policy, support and initiatives
PN161	Grandparents: role in child care and parenting
PN196	Racial differences and disparities in the postnatal period

Maternal care

MS34	Postnatal visiting
------	--------------------

PN15	Perineal pain relief
PN157	Social support in the postnatal period
PN17	Rooming in
PN25	Postnatal exercise
PN59	Postnatal haemoglobin
PN60	Caesarean section: postnatal care and pain relief
PN68	Perineal care
PN76	Postnatal contraception
PN99	Maternal satisfaction with postnatal care

Psychological aspects

PN102	Sexuality and body image: postnatal
PN115	Postnatal depression: effects on baby and family
PN116	Postnatal depression: treatment and support
PN155	Mental health and well-being of fathers
PN159	Palliative care for the infant
PN16	Postnatal depression: causes
PN2	Bonding
PN27	Caesarean section: psychological sequelae
PN35	Transition to parenthood
PN67	Postnatal psychosis
PN69	Debriefing and post traumatic stress disorder
PN197	Postnatal depression: prevention
PN198	Postnatal depression: screening and diagnosis

Pregnancy

Adverse outcome

P171	Stillbirth
P196	Stillbirth: prevention
P37	Miscarriage: bereavement and counselling
P51	Miscarriage: causes
P64	Recurrent miscarriage
P77	Termination for fetal abnormality: psychological aspects

Antenatal care

MS12	Late booking
MS16	Antenatal visits: frequency
MS2	Booking interview
MS3	Satisfaction with antenatal care
MS7	Women holding own notes
P168	Antenatal care and socioeconomic status
P47	Estimated date of delivery
P80	Antenatal hospital admission: psychosocial aspects

Antenatal health

P1	Alcohol: effects on fetus
P103	Fetal origins of adult disease
P13	Drug abuse: effects on mother, fetus and infant
P14	Exercise and sport in pregnancy
P141	Caffeine/coffee drinking in pregnancy
P145	Travel in pregnancy and with a baby
P150	Environmental pollution: effects on pregnancy
P162	Use of prescription and non-prescription drugs in pregnancy
P164	Oral health in pregnancy
P177	Vitamin D deficiency
P178	Maternal obesity: impact on offspring
P179	Antidepressants and psychotropic medication during pregnancy and breastfeeding

P180	Effect of natural disasters on maternal and infant health
P187	Dietary supplements in pregnancy
P190	Maternal microbiome
P198	Perinatal mental health
P199	Opioid dependence in pregnancy
P205	Diet and nutrition in pregnancy: health behaviour and nutritional status
P29	Smoking: adverse effects
P34	Maternal weight gain
P39	Working in pregnancy
P42	Diet and nutrition in pregnancy: impact on maternal and infant outcomes
P50	Aquanatal exercise
P57	Folic acid
P67	Sex in pregnancy
P68	Cocaine and crack
P69	Vegetarians and vegans
P78	Nausea and vomiting in pregnancy
P8	Common disorders (excluding nausea)

Complementary therapies

P100	Massage
P156	Reflexology
P157	Osteopathy, chiropractic and physiotherapy
P176	Yoga
P95	Acupuncture and acupressure
P96	Aromatherapy
P97	Herbal remedies
P98	Homeopathy
P99	Hypnosis

Complications

P101	Obstetric cholestasis
P107	Uterine rupture
P109	Thromboembolic diseases
P111	Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia: magnesium sulphate therapy
P112	Pre-eclampsia: aspirin therapy

P113	Pre-eclampsia: general references and outcomes
P114	Eclampsia
P117	Pregnancy-related pelvic girdle pain
P119	Obesity in pregnancy
P12	Gestational diabetes: risk factors and causes
P126	Multifetal pregnancy reduction
P127	Thalassaemia
P128	Cervical cerclage
P129	Fetal macrosomia
P130	Premature labour and birth: causes
P133	Premature labour and birth: prevention and management
P135	Edward's syndrome
P136	Twin-twin transfusion syndrome
P140	Pre-eclampsia: causes and prevention
P143	Hydrops fetalis
P144	Neural tube defects
P146	Pre-eclampsia: management and treatment
P147	Amnioinfusion
P149	Critical / high-dependency care in pregnancy
P153	Chorioamnionitis
P158	Pre-eclampsia: screening and diagnosis
P161	Placenta accrete, increta and percreta
P165	Allergies in pregnancy
P169	Liver diseases in pregnancy
P170	Kidney diseases and pregnancy
P174	Pregnancy following bariatric surgery
P175	Effects of multiple corticosteroids
P181	Maternal sepsis: genital tract
P185	Assisted reproduction: complications in pregnancy and labour
P186	Gestational diabetes: treatment and management
P194	Gestational diabetes: screening, diagnosis and prevention
P207	Gestational diabetes: maternal and infant outcomes
P200 (2020)	Coronavirus (COVID-19) in pregnancy (Records from 2020 only)
P200 (2021)	Coronavirus (COVID-19) in pregnancy (Records from 2021 only)
P200 (2022)	Coronavirus (COVID-19) in pregnancy (Records from 2022 only)
P200 (2023 onwards)	Coronavirus (COVID-19) in pregnancy (Records from 2023 onwards)
P204	Hyponatraemia

P21	Maternal age over 35
P23	Pregnancy induced hypertension: causes and diagnosis
P24	Prolonged pregnancy
P26	Rhesus disease
P28	Sickle cell disease
P3	Anaemia and iron supplements
P31	Teenage pregnancy: physiology
P40	Preterm premature rupture of the membranes
P41	Hyperemesis gravidarum
P43	Fetal growth restriction
P48	Twins: pregnancy only
P55	Multiple pregnancy (not twins)
P56	Pregnancy induced hypertension: management, treatment and maternal and infant outcomes
P59	Fetal growth restriction: screening and diagnosis
P71	Placental abruption
P72	Placenta praevia
P74	Antepartum haemorrhage/bleeding
P86	Breech: external cephalic version
P91	Grand multiparity
P92	HELLP syndrome
P93	Oligohydramnios
P94	Polyhydramnios

General

P182	Racial differences and disparities in pregnancy
P201	Coronavirus (COVID-19) – vaccination in pregnancy

Health education

MS42	Consumer health information
P115	Folic acid: health education
P121	Preparation for caesarean section
P167	Antenatal classes
P195	Mobile apps in pregnancy and beyond

P206	Diet and nutrition in pregnancy: role of midwives and health care professionals in health promotion and education
P22	Prepregnancy care
P36	Smoking: health behaviour, health education
P4	Education for labour (Lamaze, psychoprophylaxis etc)
P49	Education for parenthood
P60	Evaluating antenatal education
P63	Alcohol: health behaviour, education
P81	Drugs: health behaviour, education

Infections

P10	Cytomegalovirus
P102	Urinary tract infections
P105	Group B streptococcus
P106	Hepatitis C
P110	Human parvovirus
P118	Drug therapy for pregnancy women with HIV infection
P122	Malaria in pregnancy
P123	Chickenpox in pregnancy
P137	Bacterial vaginosis
P159	Vaccination during pregnancy
P160	Tetanus in pregnancy and the neonate
P17	Herpes
P172	Influenza in pregnancy
P18	HIV infection: care in pregnancy and labour
P183	Pertussis (whooping cough)
P189	Zika virus in pregnancy
P20	Listeria
P25	Rubella
P32	Toxoplasmosis
P76	Chlamydia
P87	Hepatitis B
P88	Sexually transmitted infections
P89	Syphilis

Screening

P108	Cystic fibrosis
P124	Cordocentesis
P125	Informed choice/decision making prior to screening
P138	Ultrasound: three dimensional
P151	MRI and computed tomography
P16	Changes to fetal movements
P163	Ultrasound: four dimensional
P173	Prepregnancy genetic screening and counselling
P184	Ethical and moral dilemmas in antenatal and newborn screening
P19	HIV screening
P193	Non-invasive prenatal testing
P2	Amniocentesis
P203	Genomics
P27	Screening in pregnancy: anxiety and distress
P33	Ultrasound: safety
P45	Ultrasound: diagnostic
P46	Fetal monitoring at home
P58	Down's Syndrome screening
P7	Chorion villus sampling
P70	Vaginal examinations in pregnancy, labour and the puerperium
P75	Physical examination in pregnancy
P82	Blood pressure: methods of measurement
P83	Urine testing
P84	Glucose tolerance tests
P85	Risk scoring

Social and psychological aspects

P120	Eating disorders in pregnancy
P132	Antenatal depression
P134	Fetal sentience
P15	Fathers/partners
P154	Fear of childbirth/tokophobia
P191	Unintended pregnancy
P192	Mindfulness and meditation for pregnancy and parenting

P197	Pregnancy after stillbirth
P202	Coronavirus (COVID-19) – mental health in pregnancy and post birth
P30	Social support in pregnancy
P44	Poverty and socioeconomic factors
P52	Unsupported women
P53	Violence and sexual assault in pregnancy
P61	Teenage pregnancy: psychosocial aspects
P65	Childhood sexual abuse and effect on pregnancy
P66	Sexuality and body image in pregnancy
P79	Maternal stress/life events

Women with medical conditions

P11	Diabetes
P131	Thyroid diseases
P148	Cancer
P152	Systemic lupus erythematosus
P155	Heart disease in pregnancy
PN166	Pneumonia in pregnancy
P38	Phenylketonuria
P73	Asthma
P90	Epilepsy