

Update from NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Specialty Group November 2020

Saint Andrew's Day (*Là Naomh Anndrais*), the day of the Patron Saint of Scotland, is celebrated on 30th Nov.



CSO Statement on the Updated Prioritising of Research Supported by NIHR

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has provided an update on the prioritisation of research supported by NIHR infrastructure. This revision has been prompted due to some concerns expressed around recruitment levels to the COVID-19 vaccine studies.

The updated NIHR prioritisation levels are:

Level 1A (Top Priority) - COVID-19 UPH vaccine and prophylactic studies (as prioritised by the Vaccines Task Force and agreed by Jonathan Van-Tam, deputy CMO) and platform therapeutics trials (currently RECOVERY/RECOVERY +; PRINCIPLE; REMAP CAP).

Level 1B - Other COVID-19 UPH studies.

Level 2 - Studies where the research protocol includes an urgent treatment or intervention without which patients could come to harm. These might be studies that provide access to potentially life preserving or life-extending treatment not otherwise available to the patient.

Level 3 - All other studies (including COVID-19 studies not in Level 1A or 1B).

The Chief Scientist Office (CSO) is supportive of the additional stratification of the priority levels as occasioned by the current challenges of recruiting to the COVID-19 vaccine studies. We also remain committed to the principle that the prioritisation response should be locally led and that maintaining, supporting and developing a wide portfolio of both COVID and non-COVID research, both commercial and non-commercial, is key.

Results of the NHS Research Scotland Patient Survey

In July NHS Research Scotland (NRS) launched a [Survey](#) to uncover issues and concerns patients may have on returning to participate in NHS research.

Over 500 responses were received and patients were in favour of research starting with some prioritisation. Responders were still happy to attend for research visits at NHS sites with some increased interest in mixed clinical and research visits or home visits so long as appropriate safety measures were in place. Full details available in the [Survey Report](#).

RCOG Annual Academic Meeting on 25th and 26th Feb 2021

This virtual course features the entire spectrum of academic research in O&G, invaluable to anyone with an interest in this area.

Led by a range of speakers, from emerging researchers to world-renowned research leaders, the programme includes key updates and provides a forum for all undertaking research in O&G.

To enhance your learning experience and further assist flexible learning, lectures will be made available online to you after the event, so if you have to miss a lecture you can catch up when it suits you.

[For further details](#)



Please send us your feedback, good new stories and any information which you would like to see featured in our Specialty updates:

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or Txaro (maria.amezaga@nhs.scot)

The GBS3 Trial has been Paused until 2021!



GBS3. The clinical and cost-effectiveness of testing for Group B Streptococcus: a cluster randomised trial with economic and acceptability evaluations.

CPMS: 42782. IRAS 263682; CI: Professor Jane Daniels, University of Nottingham. Funder: NIHR NETSCC.

GBS3 Team Announcement: We have made the sad decision to pause the trial until April 2021. This is not a decision we have taken lightly but with ever increasing pressures on hospitals due to COVID-19 and other urgent public health research priorities, we felt that this was the best option to ensure that the trial can be fully supported when there is more capacity across all relevant departments.

However, this doesn't mean that the trial has stopped completely and we would still like to work with sites to obtain signed non-commercial agreements over the next few months with a view to randomising our first sites in March 2021 and opening our first sites during April/May 2021.

We would also like to reassure you that signing your NCA does not commit your site to being randomised in March 2021. We will work with you and your site to ensure that there are appropriate support and approvals in place from a local perspective before we consider randomisation. We will also be working on addressing the barriers to participation identified by sites and will share any relevant updates through our newsletters and monthly webinar sessions.

Expressions of Interest: We are still inviting expressions of interests from potential sites in England, Scotland and Wales. Please find link to site selection questionnaire:

<https://nottingham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/gbs3-site-selection-questionnaire>

To help increase the amount of sites who are eligible to take part in GBS3, we have previously reduced the minimum birth rates required for participation in GBS3 to 2500 births per annum. The NHS maternity statistics for 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 have been published so please feel free to check if your site could now be eligible:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-maternity-statistics/2019-20>.

If your site has not yet been selected to participate or if you have any questions contact the GBS3 team: GBS3@nottingham.ac.uk.

UPDATE ON NEW STUDIES

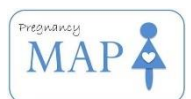
LOCI Trial. Letrozole Or Clomifene for Ovulation Induction. CPMS 42795. IRAS 257918.

CI: Professor Arri Coomarasamy, University of Birmingham. Funder: NIHR.



Study Active in NHS Grampian and Lothian, Proposed in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

MAP. Methods of assessing perinatal anxiety. CPMS 274901. IRAS 44082. CI: Professor Susan Ayers, University of London. Funder: NIHR.



Active in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, going through approval in Grampian. Pre-Approval Suspended in Borders and Lanarkshire.