

Update from NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Specialty Group October 2020



PROTECTING RESEARCH DURING A SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 ACTIVITY

The Chief Scientist Office (CSO) has published guidance to ensure the protection of research during a second wave of COVID-19 activity.

Research, development and innovation are an integral and vital part of our NHS.

CSO has been working with colleagues across the NHS to support the restarting of research paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work has been guided by the Restart Framework developed by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in consultation with the devolved administrations.

This document provides guidance to ensure COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 research is protected in the event of increased pressure on wider clinical services. Scotland and the other devolved administrations have been fully involved in its development and are supportive of the guiding principles.

To note:

- Study prioritisation levels in the Restart Framework remain unchanged.
- Urgent Public Health studies remain the highest priority for research support. COVID-19 vaccine studies are also part of this highest priority group.
- Pausing studies should be a last resort only after all efforts have been made to maintain recruitment rates alongside other research and clinical activity.
- Reducing recruitment rates would be an option to consider before studies are re-paused.

[Full CSO Statement](#)

[NIHR Guidance for a second wave of COVID-19 activity](#)

NIHR Associate PI Scheme

The Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme aims to develop junior doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to become the PIs of the future and provides formal recognition of a trainee's engagement in NIHR Portfolio research studies through the conferment of Associate PI status.

This Scheme has concluded a pilot scheme in other areas, is now being rolled out to other specialties. Work is underway to set it up in Reproductive Health and Childbirth.

[Further details](#)

NEW NRS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND CHILDBIRTH WEBPAGE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

We continue to work with NRS Communications to update our Specialty webpage on the NRS website; we are aiming to go live soon.

<http://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/research-areas/reproductive-health>



A SURVEY TO SUPPORT NIHR FUNDED CHOICE STUDY ON OUTPATIENT INDUCTION OF LABOUR



The CHOICE Study team requests your help with completing a short survey on IOL practice and COVID-19

You do not need to be a CHOICE site to complete it

The CHOICE Study looks at whether it is safe, cost-efficient and acceptable to women to carry out outpatient cervical ripening during IOL. Because of this focus, they want to know if IOL practice and services have changed at all as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Study team will be very grateful for information about changes relating to IOL in your area. They have developed an online survey which will capture any changes in practice and are asking all UK maternity units to complete it:

<https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/iol-covid-19-impact-survey-final-pilot>

If you would like to know more about the CHOICE Study, or have any questions please contact: mairi.harkness@stir.ac.uk or CHOICE.study@ed.ac.uk

CHOICE. Cervical Ripening at Home or In-Hospital- prospective cohort study and process evaluation. CPMS 47524. IRAS 276788. CI: Dr Sarah Stock, University of Edinburgh. Funder: NIHR

This study examines the safety, efficacy, cost and acceptability to women and their partners and explores women's experience of home versus hospital cervical ripening for induction of labour. Routinely collected data from the electronic health records of women having IOL in 30 UK maternity units will be used.

NHS Grampian, Highland and Lanarkshire are on board. Many thanks!

Please let us know if you are interested in participating and would like more information.

For further queries, please contact: mairi.harkness@stir.ac.uk or CHOICE.study@ed.ac.uk

UPDATE ON NEW STUDIES

SurfON . Multicentre, open-label, randomised controlled trial of early surfactant therapy versus expectant management in late preterm and early term infants with respiratory distress.

CPMS 45491. IRAS 279154. CI: Dr Elaine Boyle, Leicester University. Funder: NIHR.

Active in NHS Lothian, other HBs in set-up or progressing through approval to start due to COVID-19 suspension



Please send your Good News, queries, etc. to: Abha (abha.maheshwari@abdn.ac.uk) or Txaro (maria.amezaga@nhs.net)