

To: Marian Knight, Director, MBRRACE-UK

From: Edile Murdoch, Chair of Maternity and Neonatal Outcomes Group, NHSE (NHSE)

Purpose: Proposal to work in partnership with MBRRACE-UK on developing Standard Operating Procedures for the MBRRACE–UK and Reading the signals real time data monitoring tools and to include use of the tool in NHS England’s Perinatal Quality Surveillance Model.

Background

1. The Maternity and Neonatal Outcomes Group has been set up by NHSE in May 2023 to address the first recommendation in the East Kent report to *‘identify valid maternity and neonatal outcome measures capable of differentiating signals among noise to display significant trends and outliers’*. The group contains expertise including Dr. Bill Kirkup as special advisor and Professor David Spiegelhalter, a leading statistician at University of Cambridge.
2. Initial scoping has identified the opportunity to develop a signalling tool for maternity services. This has been named the Maternity Outcomes Signal System (MOSS). This tool enables services to respond early to signals with prompt safety assessments and actions. This form of monitoring tool is already used in other services and review processes.
3. The work has been focused on selecting the appropriate outcome measures and testing their validity for use within the MOSS. The approach is described in **Annex 1**. The tool will not determine the safety of a service but indicate early changes in signal trends that require further investigation.
4. The aim is for the MOSS to be embedded within the Maternity and Neonatal Programme’s Perinatal Quality Surveillance Model (PQSM) which identifies services at risk of vulnerable outcomes to channel appropriate support. Use of the tool will therefore be locally owned with a standardised escalation pathway and oversight in the NHS set out by the PQSM.
5. Using the MOSS will be a new way of working in maternity and neonatal services, so there will be a need to ensure appropriate communication, training and operational requirements are in place.
6. The group recognises that the MBRRACE-UK real time data monitoring tool which trusts already have access to is an existing opportunity to monitor real time changes and trends in perinatal mortality signals. However utilising and responding to this data is not currently mandated so not all trusts access this information.
7. The MBRRACE-UK real time data monitoring tool and the MOSS should be viewed as complementary as both monitor real time trends in outcomes and indicate unusual changes in trends. There are differences in the outcome data monitored, analysis and interpretation of the data.