



NMPA Perinatal Mental Health Sprint Audit (PMHSA) Lay Member

About the National Maternity & Perinatal Audit

The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) is a large scale audit of NHS maternity services across England, Scotland and Wales. It began on 1st July 2016 and is initially commissioned for three years.

Using timely, high quality data, the audit aims to evaluate a range of care processes and outcomes in order to identify good practice and areas for improvement in the care of women and babies looked after by NHS maternity services. Last year, the audit published its first report which you can find [here](#). The audit has a Women and Families Involvement Group which was established to inform the audit based on the experiences of people using maternity services.

What will the NMPA Perinatal Mental Health Sprint Audit do?

As part of the NMPA, we are also committed to delivering a flexible programme of periodic 'sprint audits' that examine particular topics within a focused time frame. The perinatal mental health sprint audit is one of four sprint audits we are conducting during the timeframe of the NMPA.

The aim of the PMHSA is to explore how feasible it is to link datasets in different areas of healthcare where mental health is recorded. This is important to enable us to assess the care that women who have a mental health condition during or after their pregnancy receive. We are likely to produce a report examining a small number of key measures within perinatal mental health care to examine any variation that exists in these across England, Scotland and Wales.

It is important to note that the work will involve a small number of the very many possible areas involved in perinatal mental health. This will be acknowledged in the report, but it is key that we narrow down the options to what is clinically important and meaningful as well as what is achievable in terms of the data that we will have.

It is therefore possible that specific topics you would particularly like to see covered may not be, but your contributions to the topics that are selected will remain incredibly valuable.

Advisory Group Member Lay Member

The PMHSA final report will be published in July 2019 and whilst background work has already begun, the first official meeting is scheduled to take place in March 2018. The audit will be guided by a team of clinical and academic experts as well as experts with lived experience of one or more mental health conditions during pregnancy or after the birth of their baby, who will form an advisory group. A member of the [RCOG Women's Network](#) who has expertise in this area will be one of the lay representatives on the advisory group. We are therefore looking to recruit an additional volunteer lay representative to provide insight and expertise as someone who has direct experience of living with a maternal mental health condition.

The appointed lay representative will be a key member of the advisory group, working alongside other members of the group and the project team. They will be expected to attend around 4-6 meetings across the entire length of the sprint audit (around 18 months), and comment on work remotely (mostly via email) in between meetings. Meetings will be held in London. It will be

beneficial for the lay representative to attend at least the first meeting in person, however virtual conferencing facilities will be made available for meetings thereafter if this is preferable.

Criteria for the Lay Member of the PMHSA

We are looking to appoint a member of the public to the advisory group who:

- Has used UK maternity services within the last 3 years
- Has first-hand experience of one or more mental health conditions during or after pregnancy and feels comfortable using this experience to inform discussion
- Is able to attend 4-6 daytime meetings over the course of the project, as well as contribute to the work via email correspondence and occasional phone calls
- Is willing and confident to engage in discussion with a range of other people including health professionals and academics, around potential topics for study within the sprint audit, ways of presenting the information, results and report writing
- Can take a balanced and analytical viewpoint
- Is willing to contribute to and review the lay summary produced for the report as well as any resources produced to convey key messages

In addition to joining the advisory group, the appointed lay member will also be invited to join the Women and Families Involvement Group if they wish to. This group advises and informs the wider audit work and meets once or twice per year.

Appointment process

If you feel you could fulfil this role based on the requirements outlined above, please complete the short expression of interest form below, outlining how you feel you match the criteria. Expressions of interest will be considered by the audit team and the RCOG Women's Network representative involved, and shortlisted. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to take part in a short telephone conversation to discuss the role further and your suitability to it.

Considerations before applying

We are aware that asking an individual to bring their personal experience to inform this work may be challenging, and in no way do we want an appointed lay member to risk adverse effects on their mental wellbeing through involvement in this work. Please do give thorough consideration before applying as to whether the opportunity is right for you at this time.

Expenses and support

This is a voluntary opportunity, however travel and any necessary accommodation will be provided. We will make every effort to ensure that any additional needs of the appointed lay member are supported to ensure that they can fulfil their role effectively.

If you would like to discuss the audit and this lay role before expressing your interest, please email Fran Carroll, Research Fellow in the Lindsay Stewart Centre for Audit and Clinical Informatics (fcarroll@rcog.org.uk), or alternatively get in touch with Matthew Miles (mmiles@rcog.org.uk) or Kerriane O'Rourke (korourke@rcog.org.uk) from the RCOG Patient and Public Involvement Team. Please also get in touch if you require any assistance in completing the expression of interest form.