

## Scoping Exercise - Standards for Maternity Care

Healthcare Improvement Scotland is the national health and social care improvement organisation for Scotland. The standards we develop are informed and shaped by people who commission, deliver and use services.

Scottish Government has recently commissioned Healthcare Improvement Scotland to develop standards for maternity care. The development of the standards for maternity care will support national consistency and promote improvements in the delivery of holistic maternity services.

The standards for maternity care are being developed alongside our national healthcare standards. The national healthcare standards outline key components of safe, effective and person-centred care and apply to all healthcare services. The draft national standards will be out for consultation in early 2025. More information about the national healthcare standards is available from our website - <https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.scot/publications/national-healthcare-standards-for-scotland/>.

Throughout the standards for maternity care, the terms **woman** and **women** are used to refer to people who access maternity care services. This includes transgender, non-binary and intersex people.

The standards will not cover the following areas:

- Development of Healthcare Improvement Scotland quality indicators or key performance indicators.
- Implementation of the standards – this will be for local determination.

For more information please contact: [his.standardsandindicators@nhs.scot](mailto:his.standardsandindicators@nhs.scot)

## Sharing your feedback on the draft standards for maternity care

We are inviting stakeholders to comment on the proposed scope of the standards. The consultation will run from **23 August until 16 September 2024**.

HIS will use the information you provide to inform the final scope for the standards for maternity care. How HIS handles personal data is described in

our online Privacy policy: How we use your information – Healthcare Improvement Scotland  
- <https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.scot/privacy-policy-how-we-use-your-information/>

The scope report will be published in autumn 2024. The final standards will be published in late summer 2025.

1.The standards will apply to all services that provide maternity care in Scotland, including community, primary and acute settings. Do you agree with the proposed settings?

**Strongly agree**

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

2.If you have any comments on the proposed settings, please add below.

For community care it will be important to consider care provided by independent contractors e.g. community pharmacists providing pharmaceutical care services to the general public.

3.The standards will cover the following:

- women who require pre-conception care
- women who require maternity services
- women who require postnatal care (up to 28 days post-partum)
- routine care of newborn babies (up to 28 days old).

Do you agree with the proposed populations?

Strongly agree

**Agree**

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Neutral

4.If you have any comments on the proposed populations, please add below.

It would be helpful if there was an indication of the scope of maternity services including antenatal care, care surrounding miscarriage and stillbirth, support for screening, perinatal care and specialist support for woman accessing maternity services who have special needs due to their long term condition including those who misuse drugs or alcohol.

5.The following is a list of the proposed themes. Do you agree with the themes?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
service design		x			
person-led coordination of care		x			
improving equity and equality		x			
assessment		x			
mental health and emotional wellbeing		x			
antenatal and parental education		x			
pre-conception care		x			
early pregnancy		x			
antenatal care		x			

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
labour and intrapartum care		x			
postnatal care (up to 28 days)		x			
neonatal (up to 28 days)		x			

6.If you have any comments on the proposed themes, please add below.

n/a

7.We have identified the following roles for our development group. Are there any other roles which should be included?

- Anaesthetists
- Family Nurse
- Fetal Medicine Specialists
- General Practitioners
- Health Visitors
- Hospital nurses, including neonatal and outpatient
- Infection Control Specialist
- Maternity Clinical/Service Manager
- Mental Health Practitioners
- Midwives (including community and prison midwives)
- Neonatologists

- Obstetricians
- Paediatricians
- People with lived experience
- Pharmacist
- Psychologists
- Radiographers
- Third Sector Representatives

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is pleased to see pharmacists listed in the development group roles list. We recognise that care for women accessing maternity care spans all sectors of practice and we would be happy to support the identification of pharmacist(s) with experience and expertise in community, primary and secondary care practice. Member feedback has also suggested inclusion of a representative from a clinical governance perspective, who has knowledge of the learning from investigations into maternity adverse events, so that the learning from these events can inform the development of the standards.

8. We have identified the following organisations/networks for our development group. Are there any other groups which should be included?

- Scottish Perinatal Network
- Royal College of Obstetricians
- Royal College of Midwives
- NHS Education for Scotland
- Public Health Scotland
- Scottish Neonatal Nurses Group

The Public Health Scotland Teratogenic Medicines Advisory Group (TMAG), formerly known as the Sodium Valproate Advisory Group (SVAG), which was rebranded in March 2022, to reflect the evolving role and widened scope of the group to consider other medicines with potential to cause teratogenic harm. We suggest adding this group as the standards include pre-conception care where any potentially teratogenic medications should be reviewed.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society believes that a pharmacist must be involved in the development of the standards, but as an organisation, our involvement will be when we contribute to future consultation on the draft standards once published.

9.Are there any key documents, policies, legislation or evidence that the development group should consider when developing the maternity standards?

As health professionals, including nurses and midwives, extend their roles into prescribing, we suggest that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Prescribing Competency Framework should be considered. [Prescribing Competency Framework | RPS \(rpharms.com\)](https://www.rpharms.com/prescribing-competency-framework). In addition, the Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines guidance is widely used in hospitals and across other settings. [Safe and secure handling of medicines | RPS \(rpharms.com\)](https://www.rpharms.com/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines). We also suggest inclusion of MHRA alerts with reference to teratogenic risk in pregnancy.

10.Do you have any additional comments about the proposed standards for maternity care?

None