

NEWSLETTER

October 2025



We are pleased to announce that our website which sits within Healthier Together, is finally complete. The patient facing site has excellent resources and we hope our patient experience videos will provide great reassurance to women who may need to be seen in the regional centre. The professional site has information on how to refer into the network along with education and training resources. Please follow the links to access and share with colleagues and patients alike.

Professional site [HERE](#). Patient site [HERE](#).

Data Sharing - progress has continued with implementation of data flows from beyond SHIP to enable enhanced reporting against KPI's and to ensure equity of access to the network is maintained across the region.

Workflows are currently being established with Salisbury and Dorset trusts to fully implement the data sharing agreement that is now in place.

The **Fetal Medicine Network Business Meeting** takes place on **Friday 10th October 1130-1300**. This is a closed meeting for fetal med regional teams. The **Fetal Medicine Network Education Session** takes place on **10th October at 1400-1630** and all are welcome. The topic this time is Fetal Growth. Please contact us for the invite. **The Regional Neurology-**

Obstetric training day takes place on **Friday 12 December 2025** – further details to be sent in due course.

Our third **Case Sharing Conference** of 2025 takes place on **Friday 24th October** and has a **Haematology/Platelets** theme. These sessions have proven to be an excellent educational afternoon and we appreciate your sharing of the event with your colleagues and trainees who may not be on our mailing list.

As many of you are aware, we have had some updates to our staffing, namely our **Obstetric Physician role**. We would like to address this in more detail, so please see the second page of this newsletter for a thorough update.

Obstetrics

As part of our obstetric physician mitigation plan we have increased PA allowance to ensure referrals into the WOM inbox are responded to in a timely fashion.

Midwifery

We have been continuing to train regionally on either deterioration or red flags from the RCP toolkit 15. We have also sent the patient experience ICU piece to the local ICU practice educators for upload to your VLE platform. This complements the update to the healthier together pages where you can see the patient experience videos that form the basis of the ICU training.

Obstetric Physicians

Please see the attached communication regarding Obstetric Physician (OP) mitigation. We are delighted Hitasha Rupani has re-joined the OP team and will be focusing on a workstream on care in the ED following admission for breathlessness.

Network Referrals

ALL maternal medicine referrals and advice requests should be sent to:

WessexObstetricMedicine@uhs.nhs.uk

(or **ANC.Cardiac@uhs.nhs.uk** for cardiac)

Referral template will follow but for now please include NHS no and relevant information in all emails

MDT's

Network clinicians and trainees are welcome, contact us for links:

- **Cardiac (operational only)** Monthly, first Thursday, 1500.
- **Haematology:** Monthly, third Monday, 1400 **(please ensure referral forms are completed for all new referrals)**
- **Asthma & Difficult Airways:** Monthly, fourth Thursday, 0900

Additional Learning

National MOMS meeting - 10th December - Book [HERE](#)

Neurological Disorders in Pregnancy - 29th January 2026 - Book [HERE](#)

Wessex Obstetric Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting - 14th November - Book [HERE](#)

Diary Dates

- **10th October: Fetal Medicine Network/Education Meeting**
- **24th October: Case Sharing Conference (Platelets)**
- **14th November- Midwifery training**
- **8th December: WMMN Business Meeting**
- **12th December: Obs/Neuro Study Day**

Dear colleagues,

As many of you are aware, Matthew stepped down from his role as Obstetric Physician (OP) in May. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to those who participated in the stakeholder panel for the recruitment process for a new OP.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr Jack Milln** as the next OP for the Wessex Maternal Medicine Network. Jack is a Consultant Endocrinologist and Obstetric Physician who completed his specialist training in London. Most recently, he has been involved in a research project focused on maternal health in Malawi and has now returned to the UK.

We are confident that Jack's clinical expertise and international experience will be a valuable asset to our network. His appointment also presents an exciting opportunity to develop obstetric physician training posts within Wessex in the future.

Please note that Jack will not be able to commence his role until **July 2026**. In light of this, we want to ensure transparency around the mitigation measures that have been implemented to manage the interim period. These measures have been developed in collaboration with colleagues at UHS and regional LMNS leads to ensure continuity and minimise risk. We would be happy to share the full action plan if you would like more detail on this.

In terms of OP staffing we have:

- 1PA Haematology time
- 1PA Neurology time
- 1 PA Respiratory Physician time
- 1 PA Endocrine time
- 1 PA Obstetric time to respond to emails via Wessex Obstetric Medicine (WOM) inbox
- Continued ad hoc support from **Lucy McKillop (Oxford and Thames Valley OP)** and **Carol Postlethwaite (Surrey and Sussex OP)** and Lucy has confirmed support for MDT at 0.25 PA
- Current discussion taking place on renal support (PA to be confirmed)
- **Pre-Conception Clinic (PCC)** these will re-commence on **Monday 6th October 2025**

LMNS collaboration

In line with the mitigation timeline, we have been working closely with the three LMNS' that fall within our network footprint to develop and implement a robust mitigation plan. This plan has been presented to the respective LMNS leads and will be presented at each LMNS board for escalation to the ICB, ensuring appropriate oversight and strategic alignment.

To maintain momentum and continued collaboration, we have established monthly touchpoint meetings with the LMNS teams. These meetings will serve as a forum for ongoing dialogue, monitoring progress, and addressing emerging challenges.

As the Wessex MMN hub is based at UHS, we have also engaged with the South East regional team to discuss our mitigation strategy. We are grateful for their continued support and guidance throughout this period.

Implications for Local Clinicians

We kindly ask that you continue to refer patients in line with current guidance. This includes:

- Acute cases: via the on-call team at UHS 02380 777222 consultant bl 9025 (0830-1900) reg bl 2411
- Non-acute complex cases: via the Wessex Obstetric Medicine inbox or the appropriate multidisciplinary team (MDT), whether disease-specific or via a trust based/MMN MDT.

We will provide updates following our monthly LMNS meetings, including any changes or deviations from the action plan. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us:

- **Phone: 07775 901325 (during working hours)**
- **Email: WessexObstetricMedicine@uhs.nhs.uk**

Your continued engagement and support are greatly appreciated as we navigate this transitional period