

# Library and Knowledge Services case study

# *Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Library & Knowledge Service: Can MEWS be used in the first trimester of pregnancy?*

14 April 2021

## Reason for enquiry

## Becky wanted to find our whether Maternal Early Warning Score (MEWS) can be used in the first trimester of pregnancy or if they should continue using National Early Warning Score (NEWS2) at this stage.

## What the knowledge and library specialist did

A comprehensive summarised/synthesised evidence search was carried out by Librarian Camila Garces-Bovett.

An evidence search is when the best and most appropriate information is found by a librarian using range of searching techniques and resources. The information is then summarised and presented in a format which makes it easier and quicker for the clinician to read.

A range of good quality research articles and guidelines were found using specialised research resources including healthcare research databases Embase, Emcare and Cinahl. Citations were also searched and a scoping search of Google was conducted. The evidence was synthesised and a summary provided as well as several full text research articles.

# Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

Due to the Library and Knowledge Services finding and synthesising the most appropriate and best information, an evidence based decision was made not to change practice, the team were reassured and clinical time saved.

## Immediate Impact

From the information found by the Library & Knowledge Service Becky made a decision based on evidence that there was no need to change practice.

Becky said “it was important to establish whether the assessment/early warning and trigger system for early pregnancy patients needed to change to ensure that that they were being safely monitored and actioned if necessary. No change in practice was needed as current method of assessment appropriate for this group of patients”

Having the evidence gave confidence in the team’s current practice. Becky said the evidence “Reassured whole team appropriate EWS [Early Warning Score] in place for this group of patients”

It also saved clinical time as “as initial preliminary search did not find sufficient information”

## Probable future Impact

None

## Submission by:

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## For further information on how you can get similar support contact your local NHS library and knowledge service.