

## Module Handbook

### 1.1 The Essential Knowledge for Obstetric Medicine (7MLS0001, 2024-2025)

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Level 7 Postgraduate Medicine Free Standing Module (30-credits, 300 learning hours)

Semester 2: 15 January – 28 March, 2025

#### 1.2 Module Overview

Obstetric medicine cuts across a range of professions which have been taught in silos till now. The MBRRACE reports have shown that national progress to reduce the triennial rate of maternal death in the UK has stalled since 2011. More than 50% of women who die have pre-existing physical or mental health problems. The timely identification and referral of pregnant women with acute medical problems is made more difficult by the fact that a woman might present through a range of services including primary care, accident and emergency department, acute medicine, obstetric or community midwifery services.

This core module provides the opportunity for advancement of knowledge of obstetric medicine in a multidisciplinary setting which encompasses medical disorders in pregnancy. Specialist lectures and interactive learning opportunities will actively engage students. The module draws upon all the clinical and academic strengths within the Kings Health Partners and the KCL Division of Women's Health.

#### 1.2 Module Learning Outcomes and Educational Aims

##### Learning Outcomes

The intended learning outcomes are as follows and by the end of the module the students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the physiological and pathophysiological influences that impact on the health of women during pregnancy and their infants.
2. Critically evaluate and appraise the management of common medical disorders in pregnancy to develop their own opinion of the current knowledge landscape.
3. Work independently to effectively apply and communicate their knowledge and understanding to a multidisciplinary audience through verbal and written formats delivering patient centred care.

##### Aims and objectives

1. To enable students to focus on, and develop an in-depth and contemporary understanding of the physiological and pathophysiology influences of pregnancy.
2. To outline the common medical disorders in pregnancy so that they can confidently critically evaluate the medical conditions and impact on maternal and fetal/infant health.
3. To provide students insight and knowledge of how to support oneself and others to diagnose and treat pregnant women with medical disorders on a team

## 1.4 Content

Teaching is arranged, where possible, around broad themes and due to the nature of the topic, it will be front loaded with lectures.

Due to the timetabling the order of lectures may change, please refer to the information on KEATS for the up-to-date information.

### **Week 1 (w/c 13/01/25): The Course introduction and multidisciplinary lectures (in-person and recorded) on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January (please refer to the timetable).**

**Summary:** Introduction to the module and timetable, KEATS structure, assessment and the key deadlines. An overview of the key topics in obstetric medicine; obstetric cardiology, diabetes in pregnancy, obstetric anaesthesiology and epilepsy and pregnancy and many more (please refer to the program and KEATS for details).

**Facilitator/s:** Speakers from across Kings Health Partners (KHP) and the Department of Women and Children's Health, King's College London (KCL).

### **Week 2 (w/c 20/01/20): Thursday online tutorial "Course introduction"; and "Cancer in pregnancy".**

**Summary:** The first part of the tutorial is an introduction to the module and its structure, including a brief about the tutorials and coursework. A complex case will be discussed with an interactive Q&A session. The second half is a session on the topic "Cancer in pregnancy".

**Facilitator/s:** Anita Banerjee (Obstetric Physician and Diabetes and Endocrinology Consultant, GSTT); Surabhi Nanda (Maternal and Fetal Medicine Consultant, GSTT).

**Learning objectives:** 1) To understand the course outline in more detail; 2) To gain insight & knowledge of how to approach a case study; 3) To provide insight and knowledge of how to recognize and manage malignancies in pregnancy.

### **Week 3 (w/c 27/01/25): Tuesday module surgery and Thursday online tutorial "Clinical Academia".**

**Summary:** "Clinical Academia" will take the most part of the tutorial with a focus on raising awareness of clinical academia and insights into combining clinical work with academic pursuits shared by personal journeys and experiences; Journal Club as a half-an-hour session will guide delegates on the critical appraisal skills. The Tuesday Surgery with Anita Banerjee will be dedicated to the assessment enquiries.

**Facilitator/s:** Laura Magee (Professor of Women's Health, Department of Women & Children's Health, KCL), Zoe Vowles and Holly Lovell (Clinical Research Midwife, NIHR Doctoral Clinical Academic Fellow, School of Life Course Sciences, Departments of Women and Children's Health, GSTT); Anita Banerjee (Obstetric Physician and Diabetes and Endocrinology Consultant, GSTT).

**Learning objectives:** 1) To introduce delegates to the concept of clinical academia and its relevance in improving patient outcomes; 2) To highlight accessible research opportunities and pathways for professionals in research; 3) To learn to critically evaluate and appraise a peer reviewed article.

### **Week 4 (w/c 03/02/25): Thursday online tutorial "Clinical leadership - prehospital setting and multidisciplinary working"; and "Journal Club Guidance".**

**Summary:** The first half of the tutorial will focus on the clinical leadership in the prehospital setting, and multidisciplinary working: impact of multidisciplinary working and different medical settings on the women's journey during pregnancy. This will include general practice, ambulance service and safe transfer to the accident and emergency department; clinical tips to risk stratify women to provide the right care at the right time to every woman. The second half is the Journal Club Introduction.

**Facilitator/s:** Camella Main (Practice Lead Midwife, London Ambulance Service, NHS Trust); Natalie Suff (Obstetrician, GSTT and Clinical Lecturer, KCL).

**Learning objective:** 1) To develop clinical leadership for managing pregnant woman outside of routine maternity settings; 2) To critically evaluate recent articles/guidelines in the context of obstetric medicine teach and develop critical appraisal skills.

### **Week 5 (w/c 10/02/25): Thursday online tutorial "Journal Club" (session 1).**

**Summary:** To critically evaluate recent articles/guidelines in the context of obstetric medicine teach and develop critical appraisal skills. Objective to increase exposure to rapidly evolving medical literature and help in informed clinical practice. The aim to facilitate enhancing knowledge and literature awareness through group discussion with peers.

**Facilitator/s:** Natalie Suff (Obstetrician, GSTT and Clinical Lecturer, KCL); Panicos Shangaris (Clinical Senior Lecturer, KCL and Consultant in Maternal & Fetal Medicine, KCH).

**Learning objectives:** To develop critical appraisal skills to evaluate peer reviewed articles.

### **Week 6 (w/c 17/02/25): Reading Week and Tuesday module surgery.**

**Summary:** The week is free of teaching to allow delegates to catch up with the reading (which coincides with the KCL Reading week and offers KCL study support). Tuesday Surgery with Anita Banerjee and Evgenia Kovryga will facilitate course enquiries and support.

### **Week 7 (w/c 24/02/25): Thursday online tutorial "Journal Club" (session 2).**

**Summary:** The session will focus on the critical evaluation of recent articles and guidelines in the context of obstetric medicine teaching and help to develop critical appraisal skills. Objective is to increase exposure to rapidly evolving medical literature and help in the informed clinical practice. The aim is to facilitate enhancing knowledge and literature awareness through group discussion with peers.

**Facilitator/s:** Laura Magee (Professor of Women's Health, Department of Women & Children's Health, KCL); Surabhi Nanda (Maternal Fetal Medicine Consultant, GSTT); Nick Kametas (Consultant Obstetrician and Sub-specialist in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at King's College Hospital and a Reader in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at KCL),

**Learning objectives:** To develop critical appraisal skills to evaluate peer reviewed articles.

### **Week 8 (w/c 03/03/25): Thursday online tutorial "Intensive Care (ICU) and Acute Care.**

**Summary:** The tutorial will cover the subject of critical care and point of care testing. A discussion around critical care; the interpretation of blood gases and ECGs with interactive case discussions. The session will include a deteriorating patient case.

**Facilitator/s:** Bhaskar Narayan (Consultant Intensivist and Obstetric Physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary), Lojana Chandrarajan (Consultant Acute Medicine, Obstetric Physician at University Hospital Lewisham).

**Learning objectives:** 1) To develop an in-depth and contemporary understanding of the deteriorating pregnant woman.

**Week 9 (w/c 10/02/25): Thursday online tutorial “Endocrinology Case” and “Fertility treatment and Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGT).**

**Summary:** Approach to fertility treatment and PGT preparation: the second part of the tutorial will discuss common endocrine topics and present interactive cases around shared decision making and weighing the risks and benefits in each case.

**Facilitator/s:** Anita Banerjee (Obstetric Physician and Diabetes and Endocrinology Consultant, GSTT); Jan Grace (Gynaecology Consultant and Specialist in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery, GSTT).

**Learning objectives:** 1) To provide insight and knowledge of fertility treatment and options complex medical conditions. 2) To provide insight and knowledge of how to approach complex endocrine conditions.

**Week 10 (w/c 17/03/25): Tuesday module surgery and Thursday online tutorial “Cardiac Disease and Pregnancy”.**

**Summary:** To develop an in-depth and contemporary understanding of the pregnant woman with cardiac disease. Discussion around the common themes in prescribing during pregnancy and the lactation period in cardiac conditions. Interactive cases around shared decision making and weighing the risks and benefits in each case. Tuesday Surgery with Anita Banerjee and Evgenia Kovryga will facilitate course enquiries and support.

**Facilitator/s:** Anita Banerjee (Obstetric Physician and Diabetes and Endocrinology Consultant, GSTT); Spyros Bakalis (Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal medicine, GSTT); Natali Chung (Consultant Cardiologist and Adult Congenital Heart Disease Specialist).

**Learning objective:** 1) To outline the common cardiac conditions in pregnancy; 2) To critically evaluate the benefits and risks the common drugs used in cardiac conditions in pregnancy.

**Week 11 (w/c 24/03/25): Two days of the in-person immersive discussions and interactive action learning events, including the Oral Presentation Assessment (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March – please refer to the timetable).**

**Summary:** Topics to be covered include the socio-political landscape of obstetric medicine, global maternal health, maternal co-morbidities, and the introduction to scientific and clinical research in obstetric medicine. Interactive sessions will discuss human factors that influence maternal outcomes and recognition of deterioration and escalation. The afternoon on the 28<sup>th</sup> March will be dedicated to the Oral Presentations as the manifestation of the collaborative work on the case studies. **N.B.** the participation will see a formative assessment only for the delegates enrolled on the CPD short course of the module.

**Facilitator/s:** Faculty of lecturers from across Kings Health Partners and the KCL Department of Women and Children's Health.

### **Week 12: Post-course teaching revision.**

**Summary:** The week dedicated to the end of course enquires; feedback and evaluation (14<sup>th</sup> April – the Essay submission deadline).

### **1.5 Reading List**

#### **Generic Resources**

The essential general overview included here. Please see the reading area on KEATS for additional references specific to each week. In some sessions, we will suggest core reading to support your learning, and there is also a reference list provided in the PPT presentations so that you can find the original articles.

#### **Physiology**

1. Soma-Pillay P, Nelson-Piercy C, Tolppanen H, Mebazaa A. Physiological changes in pregnancy. *Cardiovasc J Afr.* 2016 Mar-Apr;27(2):89-94. doi: 10.5830/CVJA-2016-021.

#### **Reports**

1. [Reports | MBRRACE-UK | NPEU \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)
2. Interim Report Ockenden, D. (2020). *Emerging findings and recommendations from the independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital* NHSTrust. Retrieved from [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/943011/Independent\\_review\\_of\\_maternity\\_services\\_at\\_Shrewsbury\\_and\\_Telford\\_Hospital\\_NHS\\_Trust.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943011/Independent_review_of_maternity_services_at_Shrewsbury_and_Telford_Hospital_NHS_Trust.pdf)  
Ockenden
3. Final Report Independent Maternity Review. (2022). *Ockenden report – Final: Findings, conclusions, and essential actions from the independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust* (HC)
4. Reading the signals Maternity and neonatal services in East Kent – the Report of the Independent Investigation. Bill Kirkup. [Maternity and neonatal services in East Kent: 'Reading the signals' report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **Websites**

[Acute care toolkit 15: Managing acute medical problems in pregnancy | RCP London](#)  
[Maternal medical health and disorders in pregnancy | Obstetric Volume Contents | GLOWM](#)  
[Multidisciplinary Approaches to Maternal Health - -e-Learning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)

#### **Specialist societies**

UK Maternal Cardiac Society [UK Maternal Cardiology Society \(UKMCS\) | BCS \(britishcardiosocietysociety.org\)](#)  
[MacDonald Obstetric Medicine Society](#)

**Clinical Guidelines topic specific to refer to RCOG green top guidelines and other organisations.**

### 1.6.1 Coursework and Assessment Pattern

Further information on the coursework assignment will be provided during the tutorials and by consulting with Study Skills and Support.

Summative Assessment	80% of the course mark	Written assignment: Critical Reflective Essay (3500words). Deadline: 14 April, 2025
Summative Assessment	20% of the course mark	Oral Presentation (30 minutes) - an individual's assessment which is part of the group work. Presentation date: 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2025

### 1.6.2 Assessment and Feedback

#### Formative and summative assessments

**Summative assessments:** All marks for assessments (Essay and Oral Presentation) are described as summative and are used to calculate your final mark.

**Formative assessments (applies to the 0-credit option of the module):** Your feedback and any mark (if given) for any formative activities will not go towards your final result. The grade and feedback you receive are designed to help you develop and improve your work. You will remain part of the same learning environment, but undergo a summative assessment.

#### 5.2 Word limits

Some pieces of coursework will have a maximum word limit. Under Faculty of Life Science & Medicine regulations any piece of work exceeding this limit by 10% or more will be deducted a minimum of 10% from the final mark (see KCL Study Skills and Support for further advice).