JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Clinical Fellow (Obstetrics) for National Maternity and Perinatal Audit
Directorate: Education and Quality
RCOG Grade: 6
Responsible to: Audit lead and Senior Clinical Lead (Obstetrics)
Hours: Full time – 35 hours per week (2 years Fixed Term contract until July 2020 with the possibility of extension, depending on funding)

National Maternity and Perinatal Audit

The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (the Audit) is a national audit that began reporting in 2017. It will evaluate the quality of care received by women and newborns cared for by hospital services in England, Wales and Scotland. Its aim is to assess the organisation of maternity services as well as to provide timely, high quality data that compares the care provided and outcomes achieved by providers of maternity care across a range of audit measures.

The Audit is funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. It is part of the Lindsay Stewart Centre for Audit and Clinical Informatics at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). The Audit is led by a partnership of the RCOG, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (responsible for clinical leadership) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Department for Health Services Research and Policy (responsible for methodological leadership).

In order to initiate a clinically meaningful and methodologically robust audit that produces results in an efficient and timely manner and which guides quality improvement initiatives at local and national level, the Audit:

- Delivers a continuous prospective clinical audit that produces a framework for continuous monitoring of processes and outcomes of maternity services using a comprehensive set of performance indicators;
- Delivers an organisational survey that provides an overview of maternity and perinatal care provision by NHS maternity services in all settings across England, Scotland and Wales to help interpret the NMPA clinical audit data and identify factors which may contribute to variation;
- Carries out a programme of periodic time-limited, topic-specific ("Sprint") audits that is responsive, timely, efficient and able to address a variety of topics;
• Delivers an interactive web-based system providing timely feedback to maternity units, allowing them to compare their services and maternal and neonatal outcomes against national and regional figures.

**Purpose**

We are seeking to appoint a Clinical Fellow in Obstetrics. Together with the Clinical Fellow in Midwifery, he/she will provide day-to-day clinical support for the Audit and contribute to analyses which require in-depth clinical knowledge of maternity care. The Clinical Fellows also support communication with NHS commissioners and providers and with individual clinicians, represent the Audit and its results at regional and national meetings and contribute to the writing of the Audit’s Annual Reports and development of online reports.

In this capacity, Clinical Fellows act as the ‘engine’ of the Audit. It is envisaged that this Clinical Fellow will contribute clinical input to support the analyses of the routinely collected data, as well as lead on the development of one or more topic-specific ‘sprint’ audits. Topics for these sprint audits include bloodstream infections in mothers and babies and perinatal mental health (other topics to be agreed).

In addition, the Clinical Fellows will have the opportunity to develop a research project that will enhance the Audit output addressing questions related to determinants of observed variation in obstetric management and outcomes or developing and evaluating approaches for quality improvement. The research activities will be supported by the Senior Clinical Lead (Obstetrics), the (Vice-President for Clinical Quality at the RCOG and by senior methodologists from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The post holder will be based at the RCOG and may have an honorary appointment at the LSHTM, if required for the research project agreed upon.

This represents an exciting opportunity to be involved in the measurement of clinical performance in obstetrics and to be involved in the production and presentation of outputs for a large national project. Opportunities include presentations to large national audiences, influencing policymakers, and communicating about the project nationally and internationally. Key outputs include the presentation of one or more national reports as a primary author, presentations at national and international congresses, and peer-reviewed publications.

**Main Duties**

With respect to the development and implementation of the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit:

1. To contribute to the design, management, analysis and reporting of one or more sprint audits (subjects to be confirmed) on behalf of the NMPA Team;
2. To provide clinical input to support the analysis and reporting of routinely collected data used by the Audit within annual reports;
3. To be responsible for the management of day-to-day communication with NHS organisations and other key clinical stakeholders, responding to clinical queries as appropriate;
4. To support the involvement of women and their families in the Audit’s outputs;
5. To support the NMPA team to promote local quality improvement using the Audit’s findings;
6. To present the findings at regional and national conferences, particularly those within maternity and perinatal care;

7. To collaborate with non-clinical stakeholders, including data partners, to maintain engagement;

8. To liaise with all professional bodies involved in maternity and perinatal care, and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings.

With respect to the development of a research project:

1. To develop a research project with one of the following aims:
   a. To identify determinants of variation in maternity services;
   b. To develop and evaluate an approach for quality improvement using the Audit’s outputs.

With respect to other activities:

1. To maintain the confidentiality of data at all times and to ensure that the requirements of the Data Protection Act and GDPR are met throughout the project;

2. To ensure that the data collection, analysis and reporting of the study is carried out to the highest professional standards;

3. To undergo further training in statistics, epidemiology, audit/research or quality improvement methodology, if necessary;

4. Attend national and regional events appropriate to the role, representing the Lindsay Stewart Centre and Clinical Quality and the RCOG.

5. Provide clinical advice to other Clinical Quality projects, as required.

6. To carry out other reasonable tasks required by the Audit Lead and the Director of the Lindsay Stewart Centre (e.g. contributing to training workshops).

**Accountability**

The post holder will be based at the RCOG and will responsible to the NMPA Audit Lead and the Senior Clinical Lead (Obstetrics). If an honorary appointment at the London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is agreed, she/he may be responsible to Professor Jan van der Meulen for the related activities.

Note: This job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change and develop, the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Education requirements

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<th>Essential criteria</th>
<th>Desirable criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>• MRCOG part 1</td>
<td>• National O&amp;G Training Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Good numeracy (e.g. good pass at A level mathematics or equivalent)</td>
<td>• Postgraduate degree (MSc or equivalent) in statistics, epidemiology, health services research or related discipline</td>
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<td>• Good understanding of health-related research methods</td>
<td>• Familiar with national clinical audit programmes</td>
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<td>• Good understanding of basic statistical principles</td>
<td>• Understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of clinical quality improvement</td>
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<td>• Understanding of epidemiological research (study design, data collection and analysis)</td>
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### Experience

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<td>• Relevant clinical experience</td>
<td>• Experience of research or clinical audit projects in a hospital setting</td>
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<td>• Evidence of presenting research / audit results at professional conferences</td>
<td>• Evidence of peer-reviewed publications</td>
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<td>• Experience in carrying out systematic reviews</td>
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<td>• Experience of undertaking quality improvement at the local level</td>
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### Skills and abilities

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<td>• Good understanding of the NHS and obstetrics/gynaecology services</td>
<td>• Familiar with software for data management and statistical analysis</td>
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<td>• Excellent verbal and written communication skills</td>
<td>• Familiar with a range of quality improvement approaches used at local, regional and national levels.</td>
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<td>• Good organisational skills</td>
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<td>• Ability to think systematically and critically</td>
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<td>• Computer literate and proficient with office software</td>
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<td>• Ability to work independently</td>
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<td>• Ability to work in a small multidisciplinary team</td>
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### Other requirements

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<td>The successful candidate will need to arrange to be released by their employing organisation (if applicable)</td>
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Competencies

1. Personal effectiveness
   - Takes ownership and organises self to deliver results
   - Is reliable, consistent and demonstrates a positive “can do” attitude
   - Makes decisions with confidence and takes initiative in problem solving

2. Quality
   - Is skilled and knowledgeable in own functional area/ has recognised functional expertise in own team or department
   - Seeks improvement and takes responsibility for continuous self-development

3. Communication
   - Communicates assertively, confidently and clearly at all levels
   - Adapts communication depending on audience needs and desired outcome
   - Influences successfully across the College and beyond

4. Working together
   - Builds good working relationships
   - Contributes to the success of the team
   - Demonstrates a commitment to equality of opportunity and dignity at work

5. Customer focus
   - Ensures a high quality customer service is provided in own area
   - Builds rapport with customers and treats them consistently and well
   - Demonstrates adaptability and flexibility in order to meet customer needs and manage expectations

6. Managing change
   - Manages change effectively in own area and supports others in the process
   - Is open-minded, seeks and encourages innovation

7. Management and leadership (if applicable)
   - Gives purpose and direction
   - Motivates, empowers and supports
   - Manages performance effectively