

Empowering Parents: Implementing a Pan-London Preterm Parent Passport

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With thanks to our wide network of regional and national stakeholders, and thanks to BAPM for their resources.

Project Overview

UCLPartners and HIN South London Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs) identified that other regions of England had implemented a parent passport to support perinatal optimisation and reduce variation in clinical practice. There are 9 evidence-based interventions that can improve outcomes for preterm babies. Using a parent passport helps to standardise care and ensure that parents are informed and involved in the care of their preterm baby. There is also a clinical passport to help prompt staff to deliver and document interventions for each baby. This is particularly helpful for teams looking after mothers/birthing people in threatened preterm labour, who may be transferred to a different hospital (in-utero transfer) or for the care of babies who are transferred once born (ex-utero transfer.)

After reaching out to London LMNS' and Trusts, the first session was held on 19 March 2024 and was attended by 21 units. The focus was learning from North West Coast and Manchester HIN's successful passport implementation, sharing progress from each LMNS on the 9 elements, and discussing whether to adopt a pan-London passport.

After extensive discussions, the consensus was to adopt the BAPM (British Association of Perinatal Medicine) passport to ensure consistency of communication and preterm care across the region. In implementing the passport, Trusts aimed to transform how families and healthcare teams communicate, ensuring that parents of preterm babies are empowered and supported during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives. The sessions also helped to create a community of clinicians dedicated to sustained transformation of how we provide care to our most vulnerable babies.

The second and third events focussed on how to implement the passport, troubleshooting challenges, finding sustainable improvements, sharing successes and hearing local progress updates. These sessions provided an opportunity for Trusts to network and share learning, with protected time within their teams and LMNS regions to collaborate on implementation.

At the fourth session in January 2025, attendees shared the excellent progress made across London, and discussed how units could digitise the clinical passport onto Trust electronic patient record systems and cleanse central data. We encouraged teams to consider how to maximise their optimisation data to guide improvements. This will help to direct where quality improvement efforts need to be placed in the pathway approach following successful passport adoption in involved Trusts.



Preterm Parent Passport

At its core, the passport is a communication tool designed to:

- Facilitate conversations between clinicians and parents
- Support perinatal working and guide healthcare staff in delivering key interventions to optimise care for preterm babies
- Empower parents by providing a clear understanding of their baby's care journey, reducing uncertainty and anxiety.

For parents, the experience of having a preterm baby can be overwhelming. The passport not only provides essential information but also fosters a sense of partnership, allowing parents to follow their baby's progress and better understand what lies ahead.

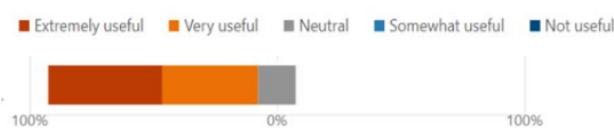
This initiative aligns with the objectives of the Maternity and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme (MatNeoSIP) and supports the optimisation of preterm infant care, as outlined in the Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle (SBLCB v3.1).

Involving service users

We made a conscious effort to incorporate the parent voice in this work. In partnership with UCLPartners, Imperial College Health Partners and Bliss (a Neonatal charity), HIN South London facilitated engagement with parents who had experienced preterm births, ensuring their voices shaped the passport's rollout. We shared feedback from these sessions at the September passport event, and plans are underway to develop additional resources for families.

How useful is the BAPM Baby Passport?

46% majority 'extremely useful'



What do you like about the BAPM Baby Passport?

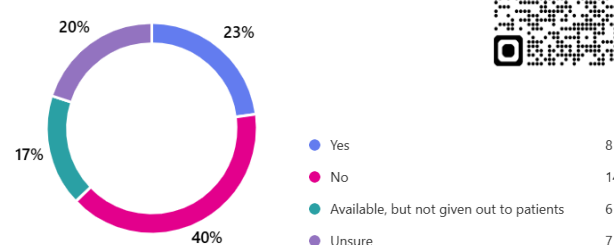
Clear and easy to understand

- 'It will give (parents) a sense of control and knowledge'
- 'Reassuring to know what can be done to give your baby the best chance'

Passport translations

To improve equity and equality of care provided to preterm families, HIN South London funded passport translation into 25 languages. However, feedback from the fourth event showed that not all units are accessing them yet. We will continue to support trusts to embed them in day-to-day care.

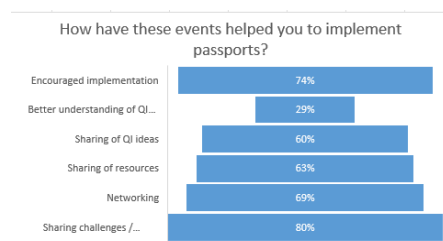
Have you used the translated passports in your trust?



Event Attendees

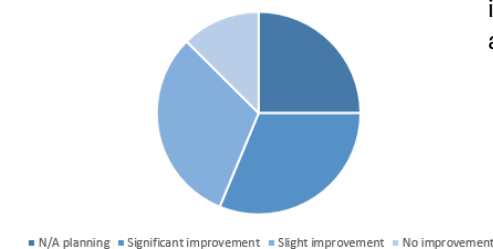


Feedback from sessions, and improvements noted



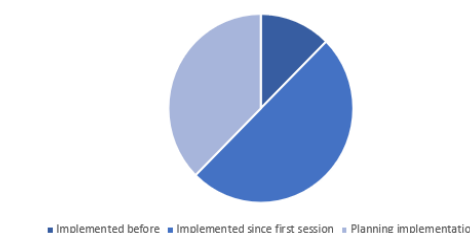
Since launching the parent passport events, feedback from the fourth event highlighted that Trusts have found the sessions useful, and they have encouraged implementation of a parent passport.

Since implementing a parent or clinical passport, have you seen any improvement in your perinatal optimisation data?



It is excellent to see that most Trusts who have implemented a passport have already seen some improvement in their preterm optimisation data. Those that had noted significant improvement had implemented the passport earliest.

Passport Implementation following the launch of the Pan London Parent Passport events



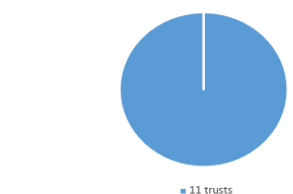
We look forward to seeing the data continue to improve as implementation becomes established across London.

HIN support

Both UCLPartners and HIN South London:

- Hosted quarterly in person events
- Organised speakers and presentations based on feedback from previous sessions
- Facilitated networking
- Supported collaboration
- Provided bespoke QI support and education outside of the events
- Regular attendance at perinatal optimisation meetings
- Attended and supported launches and walkarounds.

Has HIN support helped you implement a parent passport within your trust?



Next steps

We are hosting a celebration event in April to conclude the 24/25 financial year and congratulate our London network who have worked tirelessly on their quality improvement projects. We are awaiting confirmation of our commission to support perinatal optimisation for the 25/26 financial year, but we are delighted to see a shift to a collaborative culture and sustainable improvement approach to routine preterm birth care.