Meta-analysis suggests that metformin may reduce pre-eclampsia compared with insulin use during pregnancy.
Feig D. Evidence-Based Medicine 2019;24(2):72-73.
[Due to the limitations described, this meta-analysis should not influence a change in clinical practice at this time. A change in practice would require either a meta-analysis without such limitations or a large, properly powered RCT comparing metformin to insulin with pre-eclampsia as the primary outcome. In the absence of such data, the findings of Alqudah et al are nonetheless intriguing and add another possible benefit to those already documented with the use of metformin during pregnancy.]
Available with an NHS OpenAthens password

[Intermittent treatment with sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine, recommended for prevention of malaria in pregnant women throughout sub-Saharan Africa, is threatened by parasite resistance. We assessed the efficacy and safety of intermittent preventive treatment with dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine as an alternative to sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine.]
Available with an NHS OpenAthens password for eligible users

Multiple-micronutrient supplementation for women during pregnancy.
Keats EC. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2019;3:CD004905.
[Multiple-micronutrient (MMN) deficiencies often coexist among women of reproductive age in low- and middle-income countries. They are exacerbated in pregnancy due to the increased demands of the developing fetus, leading to potentially adverse effects on the mother and baby. A consensus is yet to be reached regarding the replacement of iron and folic acid supplementation with MMNs. Since the last update of this Cochrane Review in 2017, evidence from several trials has become available. ]

Perceptions and experiences of labour companionship: a qualitative evidence synthesis.
Bohren MA. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2019;3:CD012449.
[A Cochrane systematic review of interventions by Bohren and colleagues, concluded that having a labour companion improves outcomes for women and babies. The presence of a labour companion
is therefore regarded as an important aspect of improving quality of care during labour and childbirth; however implementation of the intervention is not universal. Implementation of labour companionship may be hampered by limited understanding of factors affecting successful implementation across contexts.

Preferences for aspects of antenatal and newborn screening: a systematic review.
[Attributes most commonly included were accuracy of screening (n = 15; 79%) and when screening occurred (n = 13; 68%). Other commonly occurring attributes included information content (n = 11; 58%) and risk of miscarriage (n = 10; 53%).]
Freely available online

Three biomarker tests to help diagnose preterm labour: a systematic review and economic evaluation.
[There is a high degree of uncertainty around the test accuracy and cost-effectiveness of these three tests, which may be reduced with the results of three comparative ongoing UK trials.]
Freely available online

Guidelines
The following new guidance has recently been published:

Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage: diagnosis and initial management.
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE);2019.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng126
[This guideline covers diagnosing and managing ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage in women with complications, such as pain and bleeding, in early pregnancy (that is, up to 13 completed weeks of pregnancy). It aims to improve how early pregnancy loss is diagnosed, and the support women are given, to limit the psychological impact of their loss.]
Freely available online

UpToDate What's New: Maternal smoking and risk of sudden unexpected infant death.
UpToDate;2019.
https://www.uptodate.com/contents/cigarette-and-tobacco-products-in-pregnancy-impact-on-pregnancy-and-the-neonate?sectionName=Stillbirth%20and%20neonatal%20death&search=Maternal%20smoking%20and%20risk%20of%20sudden%20unexpected%20infant%20death&topicRef=8350&anchor=H11&source=see_link&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT0dFM09HSXhaR013WIRnNSIsInQiOiJ1TkxqIjTxxqSisOGF9EMFduRXxFMRUpMGsySDk1OWYyODJtNDhxZGluc1a1fYTVVbI1rV UdLWNWtaZXA0NHz02ZONUZudEVBVnZjbdYyMu4Zm9hdHM3d2RXV0Vzbd2VVVpUdMVVViTzFRMeTk50dTMDhueXFaNmt6cFNUXC9r5FgjOF%3D %3D#H11
[In addition to the known hazards of maternal smoking on pregnancy outcome, maternal smoking is a modifiable risk factor for sudden unexpected infant death (SUID, infant death)
Available with appropriate registration or membership]
Reports

The following report(s) may be of interest:

**Framework for Routine Outcome Measures in Perinatal Psychiatry. (CR216)**
Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych); 2018.
https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/campaigning-for-better-mental-health-policy/college-reports/2018-college-reports/cr216
[Measuring outcomes is crucial to being able to understand the effectiveness of care given to patients across all aspects of healthcare. This report sets out guidance on the use of routine clinical outcome measurement in perinatal services. The Report aims to enhance uniformity of outcome data collection across services at a local and national level, with the benefits that brings to commissioners, providers and clinicians alike.]
Freely available online

**Infant-feeding behaviours: Can PSAS scores predict the recipe for success?**
The Mental Elf; 2019.
https://www.nationalelfservice.net/populations-and-settings/perinatal-mental-health/infant-feeding-behaviours-psas-scores/
[Melisa Selvaratnam summarises a study on postpartum-specific anxiety as a predictor of infant-feeding outcomes and perceptions of infant-feeding behaviours.]
Freely available online

**New insights into how ethnicity and culture affect maternal mental health.**
NIHR Dissemination Centre; 2019.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000762/maternal-mental-health-ethnicity-and-culture
[NIHR Signal. Ethnicity and culture can affect how and when women seek help for mental health problems before or after having a baby. This mixed methods systematic review of UK evidence found that many women are not aware of the help available to them, and those that are aware often view it negatively. Reasons for this include language barriers and fear of judgement by healthcare professionals and family members. Tailoring services could encourage more women from ethnic minorities to seek help.]
Freely available online

**Oral mucosal disorders during pregnancy – How common are they?**
The Dental Elf; 2019.
https://www.nationalelfservice.net/dentistry/oral-health-other-health-conditions/oral-mucosal-disorders-pregnancy-common/
[This review of the prevalence of oral mucosal lesions during pregnancy included 15 observational studies from 9 countries. Gingival hyperplasia was most commonly report however the quality of the available evidence was assessed as very low.]
Freely available online

**Periodontitis and preterm birth**
The Dental Elf; 2019.
This review assessing the association between periodontitis and preterm birth included 31 studies with 20 contributing to a meta-analysis suggesting a significant positive association.

Freely available online

Pregnancy and bipolar disorder: international prescribing consensus?
The Mental Elf; 2019.
[Dean Connolly looks at an international study which asks: Is there consensus across evidence-based guidelines for the psychotropic drug management of bipolar disorder during the perinatal period?]
Freely available online

Scan mums-to-be at 36 weeks for breech births, says study.
NHS Behind the Headlines; 2019.
[Researchers in Cambridge scanned around 4,000 women at 36 weeks to see whether their babies were in the breech position. This study found more than half the women with breech babies detected by ultrasound scan had not previously been identified. Researchers calculated that 7 to 8 babies' lives could be saved in the UK each year if all women were scanned at 36 weeks.]
Freely available online

Withdrawal of, and alternatives to, valproate-containing medicines in girls and women of childbearing potential who have a psychiatric illness. (Position Statement)
British Association for Psychopharmacology; 2018.
[The Psychopharmacology Committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (with additional input from the Faculty of Perinatal Psychiatry and the British Association for Psychopharmacology) have collaboratively developed the following guidance relating to prescribing decisions regarding valproate preparations in women of childbearing potential.]
Freely available online
This Bulletin was created by Barbara Peirce, Outreach Librarian of NHS East Dorset Knowledge and Library Service

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