



Birmingham Centre for  
Observational and  
Prospective Studies

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

**Birmingham Centre for Observational and Prospective Studies**

Institute of Applied Health Research

Public Health Building

University of Birmingham

Birmingham B15 2TT

[BiCOPS@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:BiCOPS@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

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## TRANSFER

**Threatened preterm birth, Assessment of the Need for in utero transfer between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation.**

Dear Colleague

Re TRANSFER study

We would like to invite you to take part in the TRANSFER study. TRANSFER aims to assess the incidence of threatened preterm birth in women presenting at 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation to inform the need for in utero transfer.

We are a group of senior clinicians in obstetrics and neonatology who have developed TRANSFER in response to the important recommendation by the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), to follow a risk based approach for decisions about care pathways following delivery for the most extremely preterm infants born between 22+0 and 23+6 weeks' gestation. In order to ensure that we are able to offer the very highest levels of care to women and their babies we must have a clear and accurate appreciation of the impact this recommendation will have on maternity services. Whilst there is national data on the number of infants born between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation, surviving delivery and being admitted to neonatal units, this does not take into account the number of women presenting with threatened preterm birth to obstetric units throughout the UK.

TRANSFER aims to establish the incidence of women presenting with threatened preterm birth to obstetric units in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation and determine the number requiring transfer to an obstetric unit with co-located neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) (level 3). This data is essential to facilitate adequate service provision and planning for obstetric and neonatal units throughout the UK.

In conjunction with the Birmingham Centre for Observational and Prospective Studies (BiCOPS), University of Birmingham we are conducting a service evaluation across obstetric units in the United Kingdom. We would greatly value your participation in this project and the protocol is attached for your consideration.

We hope that you will take part in this important evaluation. We recommend that you identify a small team of people to help deliver TRANSFER at your centre. Please register your interest using the link below.

Hospital Team sign-up form: <https://redcap.link/transferteams>

We are also encouraging Consultants to sign up as a Regional Lead. The Regional Lead will help facilitate the delivery of TRANSFER across their local hospital network.

Regional Lead sign-up: <https://redcap.link/transferregleads>

TRANSFER will be published using the collaborative model with both Regional and Hospital Leads acknowledged separately.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Melanie Griffin, Consultant Obstetrician<sup>1</sup>

Dr Adam Smith-Collins, Consultant Neonatologist<sup>1</sup>

Dr Victoria Hodgetts Morton, Senior Trainee and Clinical lecturer in Obstetrics<sup>2</sup>

Professor Katie Morris, Consultant Obstetrician and Professor in Obstetrics<sup>2</sup>

Dr Laura Magill, Co-Director, BiCOPS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust and University of Bristol, UK

<sup>2</sup> University of Birmingham, UK