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Best practice in care for preterm infants

According to the National Neonatal Audit Programme's 2017 Annual Report (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, 2017), one in eight babies born in England, Scotland and Wales will spend at least a few days in a neonatal unit. The National Neonatal Audit Programme looks for areas where the care of babies on neonatal units can be improved and makes recommendations on how those improvements could be made and by whom. This audit has been running since 2006 to monitor and report on neonatal care processes to help ensure that all babies admitted to neonatal units in England, Scotland and Wales have the best chance of survival and reaching their full potential.

This year's report indicates that while there are areas of improvement, there is still variation between networks.

However, the provision and use of the data required for and supplied by the audit will allow units to analyse and work to improve their care.

This special supplement of the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine* and the *British Journal of Midwifery* explores the nutritional needs of the preterm infant, the equipment needed to care for them, and best practice in the diagnosis and treatment of neonatal jaundice. We hope that these articles will inform and benefit your practice in caring for preterm infants and their families. **BJHM**

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health On behalf of the NNAP Project Board (2017) National Neonatal Audit Programme 2017 Annual Report on 2016 data. www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/protected/page/NNAP%20National%20Annual%20report%202017_0.pdf (accessed 10 November 2017)



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Cover image: AdobeStock/Wanmongkhol

British Journal of Hospital Medicine editor: Rebecca Linssen
British Journal of Midwifery editor: Lauren Newman
Commercial manager: Keith Martinez-Hoareaux
Publisher: Chloe Benson

Published by: MA Healthcare, St Jude's Church,
Dulwich Road, London SE24 0PB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7738 5454
Web: www.markallengroup.com