

Case study: Improve Optimal Cord Management – Royal Bolton Hospital



Programme aim:

- Contribute to the national ambition set out in [Better Births](#), to reduce the rates of maternal and neonatal deaths, stillbirths and brain injuries that occur during or soon after birth by 50% by 2025
- Contribute to the national ambition, set out in [Safer Maternity Care](#), to reduce the national rate of preterm births from 8% to 6% by 2025
- Improve the safety and outcomes of maternal and neonatal care by reducing unwarranted variation and provide a high-quality healthcare experience for all women, babies, and families across maternity and neonatal settings.

What problem were you trying to solve?

- To improve delayed cord clamping with preterm babies.

What did you do?

- Carried out simulation sessions on Optimal Cord Management for midwifery, obstetric, theatre and neonatal staff.
- Education posters to show staff members what their roles and responsibilities are when it comes to DCC
- In general conversations at each delivery this highlights the importance of DCC and helps educate 365 days a year

How did it go?

- DCC is now becoming an Optimisation that we are doing for every eligible baby
- With monthly data checks we are looking at why the babies didn't receive DCC so far for 2023 every baby that has not received DCC is because there has been a contraindication ie MCDA twins, maternal bleeds or placenta that have been delivered with baby
- Data for 2022 quarter Jan/Feb/Mar showed us at 33% and 2023 quarter Jan/Feb/March 2023 we are at 71%

What did you learn?

- Education is key so that everyone knows the process with DCC and what babies are eligible and not eligible so we don't put any babies/ mothers at risk
- DCC doesn't need fancy equipment it can be achieved with the equipment that you already have on NICU
- Regular contact with obstetric and medical staff helps them to grow their confidence when it comes to DCC