

Abbreviations within the Maternity Setting Guideline

Guideline information

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Summary of document:

This documents the correct terminology and abbreviations used in the context of providing care to women during their pregnancy and postnatal period.

Scope:

For healthcare professionals within Hywel Dda Health Board to be able to recognise and use correct terminology and abbreviations when providing care of women during their pregnancy and postnatal period.

This policy uses the term “women” to reflect that maternity and reproductive care are sex-based health needs. It applies equally to all people who are pregnant or have recently given birth, including trans men and non-binary people. Care must be delivered in an inclusive, respectful and responsive way.

To be read in conjunction with: N/A

Patient information: N/A

Owning group: Maternity Guideline, Audit and Research Group

Executive Director job title: Chief Operating Officer

Reviews and updates:

Version 1 – new

Version 2 – revised

Version 3 – full review 25,6,2026

Keywords: Abbreviations, terminology, acronym.

Glossary of terms; NA

Key points:

Ensuring correct and recognised abbreviations, terminology and acronyms are used in practice

Scope

For healthcare professionals within Hywel Dda Health Board to be able to recognise and use correct terminology and abbreviations when providing care of women during their pregnancy and postnatal period.

Aim

The aim of this document is to:

- Use agreed and standardised abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms in maternity practice

Objectives

The aim of this document will be achieved by the following objectives:

- Providing an accepted list of abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms to be used in practice

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A

AC	Abdominal circumference
ACR	Albumin to creatinine ratio
AF	Artificial feed (formula feeding)
AFI	Amniotic fluid Index
AFM	Altered Fetal Movements
AMLU	Alongside Midwifery Led Unit
ALT	Alanine Transferase
ANC	Antenatal Clinic
ARM	Artificial Rupture of Membranes
APH	Antepartum Haemorrhage

B

BF	Breast Feeding
BP	Blood Pressure
BPD	Biparietal diameter
BPM	Beats per minute
BMI	Body Mass Index
BRAIN	Benefits, Risks, Alternatives, Intuition, Nothing
BWF	Birth with Forceps
BWV	Birth with Ventouse

C

CCT	Controlled Cord Traction
CEFM	Continuous Electronic Fetal Monitoring

Ceph	Cephalic
CEFM	Continuous electronic fetal monitoring
cffDNA	Cell-free fetal DNA
CLC	Consultant Led Care
Cm	Centimetre
CMW	Community midwife
CPR	Cerebro Placental Ratio
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CTG	Cardiotocograph
CRL	Crown rump length
CRP	C/Reactive Protein
CB	Caesarean Birth
CSU	Catheter Stream Urine
Cx	Cervix
CVS	Chorionic Villus Sampling

D

DCDA	Dichorionic Diamniotic
DAU	Day Assessment Unit
DOB	Date of Birth
DVP	Deepest Vertical Pool
DVT	Deep Vein Thrombosis

E

EBL	Estimated Blood Loss
EBM	Expressed Breast Milk
ECV	External Cephalic Version
EDC	Estimated Date of Conception
EDD	Estimated Due Date
EFM	Electronic Fetal Monitoring
EFW	Estimated Fetal Weight
EMU	Enhanced Monitoring unit
EPAU	Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit
EUA	Examination Under Anaesthesia
ERPC	Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception

F

FBC	Full Blood Count
FGR	Fetal Growth Restriction
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FH	Fetal Heart
FIGO	International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics
FL	Femur Length
FM	Fetal Movements
FMF	Fetal Movements Felt
FMLU	Freestanding Midwifery Led Unit
FMU	Fetal Medicine Unit
FSE	Fetal Scalp Electrode

G

G	Gravida
GA	General Anaesthetic
GBS	Group B streptococcus
GDM	Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
GH	Gestational Hypertension
GP	General Practitioner
G&S	Group and screen blood test
GTT	Glucose Tolerance Test

H

HC	Head Circumference
Hb	Haemoglobin
HbA1c	Glycated Haemoglobin
hCG	Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin
HDU	High Dependency Unit
HepB/C	Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HVS	High Vaginal Swab
Hx	History

I

IIA	Intermittent Intelligent Auscultation
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ICP	Intrahepatic Cholestasis in Pregnancy
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IOL	Induction of Labour
IM	Intramuscular
IS	Ischial Spines
IV	Intravenous
IUD	Intrauterine Death
IUCD	Intrauterine Contraceptive Device

L

LBW	Low Birth Weight
LFT	Liver Function Test
LGA	Large for Gestational Age
LMP	Last Menstrual Period
Long lie	Longitudinal Lie
LOT	Left Occipito Transverse
LOP	Left Occipito Posterior
LSCB	Lower Segment Caesarean Birth
LVS	Low Vaginal Swab

M

MBL	Measured Blood Loss
MCA	Middle Cerebral Artery
MCDA	Monochorionic Diamniotic
MDT	Multidisciplinary team
MEWS	Maternity Warning Score
Mec	Meconium
MLC	Midwife Led Care
MLU	Midwife Led Unit
MROP	Manual Removal of Placenta
MSU	Midstream Specimen of Urine
MW	Midwife

N

NAD	Nothing Abnormal Detected
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NAS	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
NBBS	Newborn Blood Spot Screening
NEWS	Neonatal Early Warning Score
NICE	National Institute For Health And Care Excellence
NND	Neonatal Death
NNU	Neonatal Unit
NPU	Not Passed Urine

O

OA	Occipito anterior
EOS	Early onset sepsis
OP	Occipito posterior
OT	Occipito transverse
OLC	Obstetric led care

P

P/Para	Parity
PMOS	Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (previously PCOS)
PCR	Protein Creatine Ratio
PE	Pulmonary Embolism
PET	Pre-eclampsia toxaemia
PI	Pulsatility Index
Plts	Platelets
PM	Post-mortem
PNAS	Poor Neonatal Adaptation Syndrome
PO	Per Oral
Pres	Presentation
Primip	Primigravida
PPROM	Preterm Prelabour Rupture of the Membranes
PROM	Prelabour Rupture of the Membranes
PPH	Postpartum Haemorrhage
PR	Per Rectum
PSV	Peak Systolic Velocity
PU'd	Passed Urine
PCB	Planned Caesarean Birth
PV	Per Vagina

Px	Prescription
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R

RCOG	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RE	Routine enquiry
Rh	Rhesus
ROA	Right Occipito anterior
RM	Registered Midwife
RN	Registered Nurse
ROP	Right Occipito Posterior
ROT	Right Occipito Transverse

S

SB	Stillbirth
SBAR	Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation,
SBR	Serum Bilirubin
Sc	Subcutaneous
SCBU	Special care Baby Unit
SDVP	Single Deepest Vertical Pool
SFD	Small for Dates
SFH	Symphysis Fundal Height
SGA	Small for Gestational Age
SUIDS	Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome
SROM	Spontaneous Rupture of Membranes
StMW	Student Midwife
SVB	Spontaneous Vaginal Birth
STV	Short Term Variability
Sx	Symptoms

T

TAS	Transabdominal Scan
TOLAC	Trial of labour after caesarean
TOP	Termination of Pregnancy
TORCH	Toxoplasmosis, Other (including Syphilis), Rubella, CMV and HVS
TTH	To Take Home
TL	Tubal Ligation

TVS	Transvaginal Scan
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U

USS	Ultrasound Scan
UA	Umbilical Artery
UtA	Uterine Artery
U&E	Urea and Electrolytes
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
UCB	Unplanned Caesarean Birth

V

VE	Vaginal Examination
VBAC	Vaginal Birth after Caesarean
VTE	Venous Thromboembolism

W

WC	Well Contracted
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