

MATREP video transcript

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In 2015, the UK government set a target to halve the number of mums and babies who die and are injured around the time of birth, by 2025.

To achieve this target, we need to understand when and how problems with care happen, so that maternity care can be improved and to prevent future harm. The government funded two investigation/review processes to support this aim: the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB), now called Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI), and the Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT).

MNSI is an independent organisation which investigates the deaths of some mothers and the around 1 in 12 babies who are injured or die. On the other hand, the PMRT is used by hospitals to review all baby deaths that occur in their units, whether they happen during pregnancy, in labour or after birth.

This project aims to collect information from families, parents, staff members and maternity units to see whether these two investigation/review processes are successful in both supporting parents' and families' needs, and improving maternity care.

Firstly, we ask bereaved parents and families and parents whose baby has been injured, about their experiences of the investigation or review process. This will help to understand what went well and where things could be improved.

The families interviewed will include people from different ethnic and social groups. We will use the information from the interviews to write a targeted questionnaire, so we can hear the views of many more families and parents, and use links with charities to reach them.

We will also work with seven maternity units across England and interview members of staff to understand how the MNSI investigations and PMRT reviews have affected them, and how lessons learned from the investigations/reviews are put into practice. We will also collect information to work out how much investigations/reviews cost.

We will then share all these results with the parents and organisations directly involved in the research and policy teams at the Department of Health and Social Care, before sharing our findings to researchers, health professionals and parents and the public.