Screening can reduce GBS risk

Screening pregnant women for bacterial infection Group B Streptococcus (GBS) can cut the risk to newborns dramatically, a study from London North West Healthcare NHS Trust suggests.

The research found that screening led to an 83% drop in the number of babies developing GBS, the most common cause of severe infection in newborns.

The NHS does not recommend screening for GBS, but women living in other countries, including Canada, France and the US, are.

London North West Healthcare NHS Trust said it carried out the pilot study, published in BMJ Open, because too many babies at the trust were developing GBS, despite it following NHS recommendations on managing risk.

Northwick Park Hospital consultant microbiologist Gopal Rao, who led the study, said: ‘Not only is screening doable in a UK setting, it has an even greater effect than we expected.’

Last month, the UK National Screening Committee rejected GBS screening in pregnancy due to ‘insufficient evidence’ of its benefit.

Video platform updates parents of newborns

Neonatal intensive care unit staff at Glasgow’s Royal Hospital for Children are keeping parents up to date with their babies’ progress by making personal videos.

The videos keep informed those parents who live a long way from the hospital, care for other children or have returned to work.

The films, on video platform vCreate, can be accessed securely by parents at any time, on any device and feature only non-clinically sensitive updates. A still from a video is pictured.

Consultant neonatologist Neil Patel said that families had told them there was nothing more reassuring than seeing their baby.

Jack Weightman, whose six-week-old baby daughter Sophie was being cared for a non-clinically sensitive update, said: ‘This not only keeps dads involved, but lets the whole family see.’

Staff nurse and teaching assistant win Nursing Children and Young People award

Gillian Priday and Gregory Cigan have won the 2016 research award offered by Nursing Children and Young People and supported by the RCN’s Research in Child Health community.

They will both receive £750 to fund the cost of presenting their work at an RCN-affiliated conference.

Ms Priday, a staff nurse in haematology and oncology at Sheffield Children’s Hospital, won her award for a critical review on the psychosocial needs of teenagers and young people with cancer.

Her narrative literature review also examines the nurse’s role in meeting young people’s needs.

Mr Cigan, a graduate teaching assistant and PhD candidate at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, won the award for a qualitative study on the experiences of children with intellectual disabilities and their parents when they attend healthcare appointments.

A video portraying the work of children’s nurses has been made by the RCN children and young people (CYP) forums and is to be launched on International Nurses’ Day on Friday 12 May and at this year’s RCN congress. Called I am a Children’s Nurse, the video was filmed at the Evelina London Children’s Hospital, and shows nurses, children and families in several specialties. The video was made by Jessica Higson, oncology matron at Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, who is chair of the CYP professional issues forum, and colleagues from the forum and Facebook groups. Go to tinyurl.com/iszhht

Safeguarding children, assessment skills for identifying a sick child, and the health needs of transgender young people and looked after children are topics to be discussed at fringe meetings organised by the RCN’s CYP acute care and staying healthy forums at RCN congress. This year’s congress takes place in Liverpool on 13-17 May. Other clinical topics for discussion include autism spectrum disorder, health needs of asylum seekers and refugees, people trafficking and the wearing of cycle helmets.

A petition launched to save the children’s nursing degree programme has been suspended as parliament is dissolved ahead of the UK’s general election on 8 June. The petition is available to read but more signatures cannot be added and a new one may have to be started because signatures cannot be transferred after the election, according to a statement from the UK Government and Parliament petitions team. Read the petition at tinyurl.com/degree-petition